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Security Council

Seventieth year

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Tuesday, 18 August 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Cherif
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security

Letter dated 5 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/599)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Maintenance of international peace and security

Regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security

Letter dated 5 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/599)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Armenia, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and Viet Nam to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Nick Westcott, Managing Director for Africa of the European External Action Service of the European Union, and Mr. Adonia Ayebare, Adviser to the African Union Mission to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2015/599, which contains the text of a letter dated 5 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a concept note on the item under consideration.

I wish to warmly welcome Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to whom I now give the floor.

The Secretary-General: I welcome this opportunity to discuss regional organizations and contemporary global security challenges. I thank Ambassador Ogwu for Nigeria's initiative to organize this very important meeting.

I have always valued cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, which have gained greater influence in recent years. Today I will focus on how to strengthen partnerships so that we can improve our collective response to evolving threats. My message is simple: the United Nations increasingly shares responsibility for peace and security with regional organizations. We should do everything possible to help them resolve regional problems — and to include the States concerned in solutions. At the same time, regional organizations should continue contributing to United Nations peace and security efforts. We count on them for political leverage, as well as civilian and military capacities.

Members of the Security Council are all too aware of the changing nature of conflict. Terrorism and the spread of violent extremism are destabilizing volatile regions. The stakes are high in any response. Urbanization, unemployment and population movements, including massive displacement, are increasing dramatically. Technological advances in warfare, including cyberthreats, pose grave dangers to civilians. Against that shifting security landscape, the United Nations is deploying into fragile and remote environments with little peace to keep. The Security Council has rightly given our Blue Helmets ambitious mandates to protect civilians, but too often we lack the proper equipment, resources and training for that life-saving mission.

To close the gap, last year I called for a fresh review of peace operations. I am now analyzing the report of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (see S/2015/446). We are identifying the recommendations we can carry out immediately, and those that will require action by legislative bodies, Member States and partners. The Panel calls for a stronger global-regional partnership to ensure that the Council can draw on a more resilient and capable network of actors. In recent years, we have seen how practical cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the European Union has enhanced progress in Africa. Now we need to build on this trilateral cooperation and boost our collective ability to manage, plan and execute peace operations.

We should also be open to different forms of engagement with other organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the League of Arab States, NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Panel recommends that we deepen the strategic United Nations-AU partnerships. I fully agree. Almost two thirds of our peace operations

and nearly 90 per cent of our uniformed peacekeepers are deployed in Africa.

I applaud the AU and the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms for significantly strengthening their capacities and for responding rapidly to emerging crises. In Mali, the Central African Republic and Somalia, the African Union has deployed robust operations in complex settings. That dangerous work carries a high price. I honour the courage of those AU troops who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. The best tribute is to establish lasting security where they served.

The report calls for greater support to Security Council-authorized AU peace operations. The experts recommend that the United Nations enable regional organizations to share the burden, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Towards that end, I draw attention to the Panel's call for more predictable financing, including through the use of United Nations-assessed contributions.

There are other important forms of support. We are helping with planning processes, logistical packages, United Nations-managed trust funds and access to United Nations expertise, systems, materiel and services. The United Nations broad support for the AU and the Economic Community of West African States also includes political cooperation, which is difficult to quantify but still highly valuable.

Strengthening conflict prevention and mediation saves lives. Our joint efforts have made a meaningful difference in defusing tensions and supporting the transition in Burkina Faso, encouraging political dialogue ahead of elections in Guinea, resolving the electoral crisis in Kenya and ending a political deadlock in Madagascar through a Southern African Development Community road map, among other engagements. Investing in prevention will spare the much higher human and financial costs of a crisis. Leaders must recognize that peace will prevent humanitarian tragedies and spur economic development. We should place high expectations on the countries concerned and help them to realize lasting stability.

Our partnerships have brought valuable lessons. We have learned to manage transitions from regional operations to United Nations peacekeeping missions. We have provided a logistics support package to the African Union Mission in Somalia — the AU' s largest peace operation. The United Nations Office to the AU is strengthening our impact. Now we must optimize our collaboration even more. We must continue working together to harmonize standards. That would improve the transition from AU operations to United Nations peacekeeping missions. More systematic coordination and consultation on policies, guidance and training standards would ensure coherence at all phases, from planning to drawdown. Human rights must always be at the forefront.

The Panel rightly underscores the primacy of the United Nations Charter and other international human rights and humanitarian law instruments. United Nations support to regional partners is contingent on compliance with United Nations norms and standards, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, the highest standards of conduct and discipline, the United Nations financial rules and regulations, as well as other legislated procedures. We are all accountable for what we do and how we do it. Our ultimate responsibility is to the peoples we serve.

We have succeeded in dramatically enhancing our partnerships. We have come to rely on each other in critical times. We will continue to advance progress. The United Nations and regional organizations strive for a common approach to today's challenges. Our views may diverge at times, but as long as we are committed to peace, security and human rights, we will stay on course to a more secure future.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): China appreciates Nigeria's initiative to convene today's open debate on regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security. I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his presence at this meeting, and listened carefully to his briefing.

The United Nations is at the heart of the international collective security mechanism. The Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Peace and development are the watchwords of our times, but our world is not yet at peace. Regional turbulence, terrorism, major epidemics, natural disasters and other non-traditional security issues continue to arise. All countries are becoming increasingly interdependent and share a common destiny.

China supports the efforts of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to deepen cooperation in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations in consolidating and strengthening the international collective security mechanism as we strive to jointly maintain international peace and security. I should like to emphasize three points in that regard.

First, we must be guided by and base our actions on the United Nations Charter. The United Nations should encourage and support regional organizations in resolving conflicts through dialogue, consultations, good offices and mediation, in defusing differences through peaceful means, and in contributing to the promotion of regional peace and security. The actions of relevant regional organizations should adhere to the principles and purposes of the Charter, in particular the principle of respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States.

Secondly, we must deploy our respective strengths in order to enhance complementarity and coordination. China supports regional organizations in fully utilizing their own experiences and advantages in regional, historical and cultural expertise in playing their unique role in resolving regional conflicts. When cooperating with each other, the United Nations and regional organizations should use their respective strengths to complement and promote each other's efforts. Regional organizations should strengthen contacts and cooperation among themselves, draw on one another's experiences and learn from each other. China appreciates the efforts of regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU), to resolve regional hotbed issues through good offices and peaceful means. We hope that the United Nations will provide more assistance to the relevant regional organizations and support their important role in maintaining regional peace and security.

Thirdly, we should continue to cooperate in seeking win-win situations and towards common development. All countries should adopt a new approach for win-win solutions, and in pursuit of self-interest we must also take the interests of others into account and promote common development, while seeking our own. They should maintain a concept of security that is joint, integrated, cooperative and sustainable; take full account of the history and reality of relevant regional problem; and develop comprehensive policies that seek security through cooperation, place equal emphasis on development and security, and promote sustainable security through sustainable development.

The AU, the largest and most representative regional organization in Africa, is playing an increasingly important role in regional peace and security affairs. China has always been an active and constructive participant in African peace and security affairs. In July 2012, at the fifth ministerial conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China put forward the Initiative on China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security, aimed at enhancing the AU's capacit-building in peace and security, improving its capacities in peacekeeping operations and combatting terrorism and piracy. The Initiative covers Chinese financial support to the AU for conducting peacekeeping operations and building the African Standby Force. It also covers strengthened training for African Union peace and security officers and peacekeepers.

With the efforts of both sides over the past three years, there has been positive progress in implementing the initiative. China has provided positive support to the African Union Mission in Somalia, as well as for other activities, and has trained a large number of peacekeepers for African countries. The Forum will hold its sixth meeting later this year, on the theme "Peace and security".

Together with Africa, China is ready to seize the opportunity to step up the implementation of the Initiative on China-Africa Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Security so as to facilitate the political settlement of hot-spot issues and jointly promote peace, stability and development on the African continent. China attaches great importance to the important role played by regional and subregional organizations in preventing and resolving conflicts and facilitating post-conflict reconstruction, as well as responding to non-traditional security threats. China is ready to join hands with the international community to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to promote international peace and security and to create a more secure and brighter future for all.

Mr. Hmoud (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his valuable briefing. I would also like to thank the presidency of the Security Council for organizing this important meeting.

At present, the world faces great changes and transformations in the structure of the international system and with regard to the concept of regional and international security, as well as with regard to the policies guiding regional and international relations. Ongoing instability in certain regions has led to great changes in the type of security threats we face. For example, terrorist groups take advantage of chaos and instability to transform into global groups that threaten all regions without exception. Increasing globalization and technological progress have also served to create complex, intertwined threats that go beyond the territory of a single State or region — such as cyberthreats — which will threaten global security unless we work collectively to address them with creative methods.

The concept of security has therefore changed overall. It is no longer tied just to military or State security as it once was. It is therefore no longer enough to focus on regional security alone, as it too is linked to political, economic and developmental issues that require a comprehensive, global perspective as well as mutual reliance among regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations. That in turn requires efforts on all levels, with a view to setting out clear strategies and charting courses of action that we can take to face the current threats to international peace and security.

Cooperation among regional and international organizations has become an important prerequisite to face all sorts of challenges, whether regional or international. In that context, some organizations — such as the League of Arab States, the European Union and the African Union, as well as many other organizations in Asia and Latin America — serve as very useful models that should be followed in collectively achieving regional security. The League of Arab States is also among the regional organizations that serves as an important political forum for settling conflicts and launching mediation efforts and political processes. The European Union, too, plays an extremely effective role in mediation and in responding to crises in various geographical regions, including the Middle East and the African continent. The African Union also faces grave security threats on the African continent.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, especially when it comes to peacekeeping operations, has contributed greatly to maintaining international peace and security, alleviating the burden on the United Nations and implementing resolutions of the Security Council. In that context, I should like to emphasize the importance of subregional cooperation in facing terrorist threats, which are pervasive in certain regions. Such cooperation has proved useful, in particular in the cases in the Lake Chad Basin and Benin, as well as in addressing terrorist groups associated with Boko Haram. Utilizing multinational forces and good military coordination also play an important role in facing the threats posed by that and other terrorist groups.

Regional organizations have comparative advantages in their own geographic regions, as well as strong networks with extensive knowledge of their respective regions. Geographical proximity also makes those organizations more responsive to the needs of their regions, as well as more active as partners in determining the causes and solutions to the various crises. On the other hand, many regional organizations continue to lack certain important strategic and executive capabilities necessary to facing security threats, in particular terrorism, violent extremism and transnational organized crime. They need to be given adequate tools and means to carry out preventive diplomacy and provide early warning, so as to prevent and settle conflicts in a timely way.

In that regard, the United Nations can play a very important role in supporting regional organizations, which are indispensable in facing many conflict situations. We would like to stress the importance of the role of the Organization and of using the Charter of the United Nations to respond to international security threats. The United Nations should lead regional and international coordination with subregional and civil society organizations alike. That places great responsibility on the United Nations to set up the necessary partnerships and play a greater role in providing the necessary means to regional organizations so that they can adequately and promptly respond to security threats and to adapt in the best way possible to the various changes and geopolitical transformations. In that regard, we would like to suggest reconsideration of a permanent mechanism of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which would hold regular meetings with a view to promoting cooperation among such organizations and to expand the scope of dialogue and exchanges on lessons learned, including achieving consensus on dealing with different international peace and security issues. We hope that

the Security Council and the Secretariat will look into a way of discussing and launching such a mechanism.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the importance of the role of regional organizations for two main reasons. First, at the regional level, cooperation between the countries of a given region that are members of the same organizations would positively influence peace in the entire region. Secondly, regional organizations that face security challenges are part of the global security structure, which now relies on the efforts of those organizations, as well as of international organizations. While regions are the source of many security threats, they are also capable of providing solutions to threats that could have extremely dangerous regional and international repercussions if left unchecked.

I would also like to underscore the fact that bridging the gaps between the regional organizations and the United Nations would increase the chances of success in dealing with world crises at a time when those organizations require the necessary support to complement the United Nations role in international peace and security. That makes the link between regional and world security a complementary and interdependent relationship.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing. We note the key role of the United Nations in establishing a more reliable, fair and effective architecture for international relations, where the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is borne by the Security Council. The Russian Federation has consistently called for the development and improvement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations on a wide range of issues, based on the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, its Chapter VIII.

With respect to joint efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security within the Security Council's purview, we deem it of critical importance to ensure the Council's approval of and control over regional and coalition operations that envision the use of force. Only by adhering to the decisions of the Security Council can the necessary international legitimacy be attributed to the use of sanctions mechanism. It must also be noted that, in the context of new and emerging threats and challenges, cooperation in areas such as counter-terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the illegal flow of small arms and light weapons is of the utmost importance.

We have consistently supported developing multifaceted cooperation among the United Nations, the African Union and African countries vulnerable to crises. Although we are talking primarily about the African Union, other regional and subregional organizations, which usually have a better understanding of the specificity of local issues, are also of considerable relevance. We welcome the establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture with the assistance of the international community. We are convinced of the need to further strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, so as to increase the effectiveness of efforts to solve the problems of peace and security in Africa and to better tackle crises around the globe.

In that connection, we note the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to stabilize the situation in Darfur, Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Sahel and Mali, as well as on the inter-Sudanese track. Of equal importance is the coordination of actions to prevent conflicts in South Sudan. At the same time, we commend the successful cooperation between the African Union and other subregional organizations — such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the East African Community, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community — in neutralizing the threats to peace, security and stability on the African continent.

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing activities of the armed group Boko Haram in a number of countries. We welcome the efforts of regional partners of Abuja in providing assistance to counter that group's threat to the security of West African States and the countries of the Gulf of Guinea, in the understanding that any international assistance should be provided only with the consent of the Nigerian authorities.

There is also great potential in the cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States. We also feel that there is promise for the broadening of contacts between the United Nations and other dynamically growing regional structures, such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations and the Caribbean Community.

One of Russia's priorities is to strengthen the cooperation between the United Nations, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which are enhancing their political standing in the world and strengthening regional and international architectures for security. We consider the Collective Security Treaty Organization to be a multifaceted structure able to respond to a wide range of contemporary challenges and threats that its member States might face. In that regard, we see prospects for deepening the cooperation between the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the United Nations in the area of peacemaking. In the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, there is intensive work underway in the development of its own peacekeeping capabilities, including cooperation with the United Nations peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, the Collective Security Treaty Organization is assisting international efforts aimed at post-conflict rebuilding in Afghanistan as well as at stemming the threat of drugs coming from that country.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) plays a major role in ensuring stability and security in the Eurasian region. We note that the SCO has rightly become a cornerstone of regional security in all of its manifestations. Its activities relate to counter-terrorism and countering extremism. In that regard, we have seen the positive impact of the organization's regional counter-terrorism structures. There has also been development in cooperation in the areas of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and international information security.

Of particular importance for the European continent are the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe — an organization that complements the efforts of the United Nations in the region and within the framework of its mandate — in establishing agreed mechanisms across the region. On 1 August, we marked the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the 1975 Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is one of the most modern security architectures in the world. We are fully committed to the Helsinki principles of inter-State relations, their linkages and the reciprocal obligations under the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We call upon all States of the Eurasian and Atlantic community to follow the letter and spirit of those principles.

History has demonstrated how double standards and a selective approach to implementing standards in an attempt to strengthen one State's security undermine that of other States and how intervention in inter-State affairs increases security threats for the region as a whole. Unfortunately, over the past year — as this is clearly demonstrated by the Ukrainian crisis — we are witnessing a crisis in European security. There is a need to continue to seek solutions to that situation. We think that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe should reject confrontation and return to discussions in a constructive spirit. That is the only way to find solutions to the accumulated and systemic problems — while finding steps to ensure the principle of the indivisibility of security. We hope that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will return to discussing the idea of establishing a unified military-political, humanitarian and economic space from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans, including the integration processes or what is known as the "integration of integrations".

We fully the support the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe aimed at assisting in settling the conflict in Ukraine and welcome the essential work of the Special Monitoring Mission in monitoring the situation on the ground. However, of key importance for the swift implementation of all provisions of the package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreement, which recently have reached an impasse, is active and productive dialogue within the framework of the Contact Group and its working sub-group. Clearly, without progress in implementing the political provisions of the Minsk agreements and direct dialogue between Kyiv, Lugansk and Donetsk, there can be no final settlement or sustainable de-escalation.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for convening us today to discuss the contribution of regional organizations to the maintenance of international peace and security. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing at the beginning of this meeting.

Lithuania aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU).

As our Jordanian colleague noted a few minutes ago, regional and subregional organizations have the advantage of geographical proximity and can thus respond more quickly to the evolving situation on the

ground. They share better knowledge of and insights into the causes, factors and actors of a crisis, and, as neighbours, they have a direct interest in preventing a crisis from spilling over. The United Nations and regional and subregional organizations would benefit greatly from developing greater complementarity and using their comparative advantages and capabilities as they seek to defuse crises, negotiate peaceful settlements and tackle cross-border threats.

Let me refer today to three regional organizations of which my country is a member — the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe — and to their cooperation with the United Nations.

In the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War, European Governments, determined to prevent another such terrible war, were determined to proceed so as to make a war between the historic rivals not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible. Successive transformations made the European Union an anchor of peace and security on the continent, whose underlying principle of solidarity works inside as well as well outside its boundaries, including through a comprehensive strategic partnership with the United Nations, which was recognized in last year's presidential statement S/PRST/2014/4 on the subject, adopted under the Lithuanian presidency of the Council.

On the political level, the EU commitment to prevention and mediation finds expression in its continued support for United Nations stand-by teams of mediation experts and its direct involvement in mediation, such as that which produced an historic agreement between Pristina and Belgrade in 2013 and, more recently, the successful conclusion of negotiations between the E3+3 Governments and Iran.

As the largest humanitarian and development donor worldwide, the European Union cooperates with the United Nations in all major conflict and post-conflict areas, whether Syria, Libya, South Sudan, Ukraine, the Central African Republic, Yemen or Afghanistan. The EU has been at the forefront of United Nations-led international efforts in the Ebola response, which the Council discussed just last week. The EU and its member States dedicated €1.2 billion for humanitarian aid, recovery and research projects in the affected countries, including for support to the African Union's medical mission in West Africa. EU institutions and member States have allocated some €3.7 billion to tackle the unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Syria alone.

The comprehensive and synergistic nature of partnerships among the United Nations, the EU and African Union can well be seen in Somalia, Mali, the Central African Republic and elsewhere, ranging from border management and security sector reform to capacity-building, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

In Mali, an EU training mission (EUTM) and the civilian mission EUCAP Sahel Mali are actively contributing to the country's security sector reform. Lithuania is a long-term contributor to EUTM Mali and is committed to maintaining its involvement. Close cooperation between the United Nations, the European Union and the African Union is also strong in Somalia, involving Mission Atalanta, among others, in which Lithuania has participated since 2011. The EU's African Peace Facility, inter alia, supports the fight of the African Union Mission in Somalia against Al-Shabaab terrorists and will provide funding for the multinational joint task force against Boko Haram. EUCAP Sahel Niger, established in 2012, is assisting the country and the region to tackle transborder security threats such as terrorism and organized crime.

With regard to combatting terrorism and countering violent extremism, United Nations-EU high-level counter-terrorism political dialogue and cooperation offer much-needed and useful exchanges, as well as capacity-building initiatives for affected regions and States and should be further developed.

The OSCE, an organization with 57 participating States on three continents, engages in a wide range of issues, including conflict prevention, mediation, confidence- and security-building measures, the fight against illicit trade in small arms, non- proliferation issues, and the promotion of the rule of law, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms. All those areas coincide with the activities of the United Nations. Thus the two organizations certainly have a great potential for closer cooperation that has yet to be fully utilized. The OSCE has developed considerable mediation and conflict-prevention capacities complementary to those of the United Nations, and it continues to play a role in tackling the protracted conflicts in Nagorno Karabakh, Transnistria and Georgia, as well as to contribute to security and stability in Central Asia.

This year, the OSCE marks the fortieth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act — a set of fundamental commitments based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders and the non-use of force, which are also at the core of the Charter of the United Nations. It is an important but also a poignant anniversary, in the context of the unprecedented breach of those very principles by Russia, whose proxy war against Ukraine and illegal annexation of Crimea continue to cause death and destruction.

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine has an important role to play, as it represents the only international body providing continuous reporting from the ground and registering ongoing violations of the Minsk ceasefire. The Mission's vehicles have been burned and its unmanned aerial vehicles have been repeatedly jammed, while its observers have been denied access and threatened by illegal militants who continue to enjoy the military and material support of their patrons. The Mission definitely needs greater support and cooperation from both the European Union and the United Nations as it continues to carry out its work. Despite existing difficulties, a greater role for the United Nations in the pursuit of a durable, viable resolution of that conflict should be further explored.

Let me now turn to the Council of Europe, which has developed an impressive inventory of international treaties aimed at addressing some of the most pressing contemporary challenges that are at the core of issues related to peace and security. The conventions on mutual assistance in criminal matters, on corruption, on cybercrime, on the prevention of terrorism and on action against trafficking in human beings are just a few highly relevant examples for the work we do here at the United Nations, including in this Council. Those treaties are open to accession by States not members of the Council of Europe and can provide useful standards and tools for countries anywhere around the globe for strengthening governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

In June, for the first time, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe addressed the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism on the initiatives aimed at supporting efforts by States to implement resolution 2178 (2014) on foreign terrorist fighters. The recent adoption by the Council of Europe of the protocol on foreign terrorist fighters merits our attention as we continue to elaborate joint responses to that unprecedented threat. It also serves as an excellent example of close cooperation between regional organizations and United Nations entities, since the adoption of the protocol was originally suggested by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which also participated actively in the drafting process.

The partnership between the United Nations and the Council of Europe can also be strengthened in the field of the rule of law, the absence of which, along with the ensuing lawlessness and abuse, are often at the very core of conflict. The Venice Commission of the Council of Europe assists countries in democratic transitions and constitutional processes. The work of the Commission is well recognized not only within the Council of Europe but also among its Mediterranean and Central Asian partners. The Venice Commission is already working closely with the United Nations Development Programme on justice reforms. Its expertise could be further used in assisting countries in the constitutional and legislative fields, especially in post-conflict situations, where building a judicial system and ensuring the independence of the judiciary are often key priorities.

Contemporary security challenges are too complex and too multidimensional to be addressed by any one single player. It is essential to take forward the partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, with a view to strengthening complementarities and creating new synergies on the basis of their comparative advantages. I hope that today's debate will contribute to that process.

Mr. Gasso Matoses (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his presence, as well as for his valuable contributions to today's discussion. I would also like to thank the Nigerian presidency for organizing today's debate and for its cohesive approach to the three debates that have been scheduled for this week to address new challenges such as Ebola, crucial solutions such as security sector reform and the work to be undertaken by regional organizations. Those are three issues that affect us all and whose consideration by the Council is essential. Our thanks for that.

I am going to divide my statement into two parts. First, I would like to refer to those aspects that, in the view of Spain, have greater added value for the role of regional organizations in the face of new challenges to international peace and security. Second, I will address

the challenges those regional organizations face in conducting their work.

First of all, with respect to the added value of these bodies, I will paraphrase the Secretary-General, who acknowledged that this is a time of partnership peacekeeping. Of course, this is a reality, and the main aspect to which I will refer is the importance of the work of regional organizations in peacekeeping as well as the repercussions of current conflicts in terms of violence, with indiscriminate attacks against civilians, and in humanitarian terms, causing refugees crises, just to give a few examples.

It is now more than ever necessary that regional and subregional structures become involved in peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the States of their region. They have a greater knowledge of local realities and can make the best contributions. The case of Africa is a paradigmatic in that respect. The crucial role played by the African Union (AU) in crises such as those in Somalia and the Central African Republic with the support and the assistance of the United Nations is a very good example.

But it is not only regional organizations of a continental nature but also subregional organizations that have important added value. In the case of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, for instance, we saw yesterday how it was able to shape the beginnings of an agreement in the case of South Sudan that we trust will be able to be developed later. Also, the Economic Community of West African States plays a very important role in supporting and playing a preventive role with respect to resolving the institutional and political crisis in Guinea-Bissau. Let me mention also the East African Community, which also supported the Arusha agreements in Burundi and which today could play a very important role in helping to achieve stability in that country, and, of course, we encourage them to do so.

Another area where regional organizations also have important added value is attention to new threats, and here I should to refer in particular to the fight against terrorism. Undoubtedly the rise of terrorism and radicalism is a global problem that we all face and that requires that we be united in the fight against this barbaric phenomenon. Tackling the problem from a global perspective is key, but we must do it also from a regional perspective.

Regional organizations are increasingly aware of that fact, and a very clear example of this was the participation of many of these organizations — the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe — in the ministerial meeting on foreign terrorist fighters held in Madrid on 28 July, along with the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate chaired by the Ambassador of Lithuania. That was a very clear example of their involvement in this area.

There are other aspects and other new threats that also require efforts on the part of regional organizations. Here I refer to the fight against transnational organized crime, mitigating environmental threats and the fight against illicit trafficking, including human trafficking, which is something we see every day on the Mediterranean coast.

Another aspect that my delegation would like to stress in connection with the importance of regional organizations is preventive diplomacy and, more specifically, mediation. We in Spain firmly believe in the value of mediation as an instrument of preventive diplomacy. Regional organizations have a great deal to say in this area, as they have deeper knowledge of the local culture and realities, and they have the capacity to influence regional actors, with broad leeway for the participation of civil society, including women, in mediation initiatives.

Any initiative promoting the training and involvement of regional organizations in mediation efforts seems particularly interesting to us. I would like to give an example of this. In March, within the framework of the Spanish-Moroccan initiative on the promotion of mediation in the Mediterranean region, a seminar was held in Madrid on the role of regional and subregional organizations in mediation in the Mediterranean region. The seminar helped to promote and develop General Assembly resolution 68/303, of 2014, on mediation and regional organizations. We were joined in Madrid not only by the United Nations but also by the European Union, the Union for the Mediterranean, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Arab Maghreb Union. These types of meetings will continue and soon, as I said earlier, the representative of Jordan will hold another meeting in Amman along these same lines.

Having said that, we have to acknowledge that obstacles exist to the work of regional and subregional organizations, obstacles that we must jointly try to overcome. Among them I would mention very briefly the need to guarantee and sustainability and predictability of financial resources, the need to promote capacity-building in regional and subregional bodies, and the need to enhance cooperation between regional bodies and the United Nations. The African Union is once again a very good example of the efforts that have been made in recent years, with its increasing contribution to the maintenance of peace and security. As a member of the European Union, I must of course mention the importance that Spain attaches to the cooperation that the European Union has with those regional organizations.

While aligning myself with the statement to be made later by the representative of the European Union, I wish to to stress the important role of triangulation among the European Union, the United Nations and other organizations, specifically the African Union.

I should like to conclude by raising a series of issues that the Council itself could reflect on and consider as a means of deepening the existing relationship between the United Nations and these regional organizations. There are annual meetings between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union or the Political and Security Committee of the European Union. These types of meetings are a very good starting point, and my delegation fully supports them. There are other things we could take into account, for example, the statements made by Security Council members before the organs of regional bodies. Spain had the honour to participate this year, on four different occasions, in the work of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and we believe that that was a very positive experience for all involved.

Other ideas could involve greater coordination among the agendas or presidencies of the Councils, joint annual meetings of the Secretaries-General of the regional organizations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and so there is a whole set of different aspects on which I believe the Security Council should reflect so as to determine if we could put them into practice.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): We would like at the outset to thank the Nigerian presidency for having convened this debate and the Secretary-General for his very thorough and detailed briefing.

We have said repeatedly that the vision and contributions of regional organizations are crucial and irreplaceable in preventing conflict and strengthening peace processes. That is why these organizations must strengthen their ability to act, taking account of new approaches and strategies, in order to take on a more direct role in terms of peace and regional security, in accordance with the spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter.

The conduct and interests of local actors and networks as well as emerging threats characterized by their intensity must be considered from a regional perspective in order to adequately prevent and tackle the crises that emerge.

The Latin American and Caribbean region is a zone of peace that through cooperative efforts promotes sustainable development as one of the pillars of stability and cooperation for peace, a vision that is present in the various bodies and mechanisms in that region. Here we wish to acknowledge the important role played by the Organization of American States (OAS) in strengthening cooperation in security matters. For more than a decade, it has incorporated the concept of multidimensional security in order to tackle emerging threats, including terrorism, transnational organized crime, the global drug problem, corruption, money-laundering, illicit arms trafficking, human trafficking and the possession of weapons of mass destruction by non-State groups. At the same time, the OAS recognizes that extreme poverty and the exclusion from society of broad sectors of the population affect stability and democracy, eroding social cohesiveness and undermining States' security. The OAS's approach constitutes a significant contribution to the ways in which regional organizations can deal with new threats, i.e. by addressing their underlying causes and promoting inclusive development in order to maintain international peace and security.

We appreciate the fact that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional bodies is becoming more structured, given the concrete role that those bodies have to play in managing conflicts. In that context, interaction between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union can promote a more effective partnership involving the multiple actors that negotiations and inclusive dialogue aimed at building and consolidating peace require. We also appreciate the role played by the African Union peacekeeping operations conducted within the

context of United Nations mandates, and emphasize the importance for them of being able to rely on funding that is predictable, sustainable and flexible, if they are to be as effective as possible. Ensuring that standardized procedures and training in human rights and international humanitarian law issues are used in equipping those missions and their contingents is also a crucial area to which regional organizations can make a positive contribution.

Recent experience such as that in Sierra Leone have shown how the United Nations, working together with the African Union and subregional organizations, can help to consolidate peace processes, based on the principles of national ownership and inclusiveness, while ensuring the involvement of civil society and, of course, the participation of women. In that regard, regional and subregional organizations are crucial to implementing resolution 1325 (2000), and we would like to highlight the African Union's proclamation of 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063. The Agenda refers specifically to the role of regional organizations in consolidating democratic governance, human rights and the rule of law in Africa and is an example of the strategic vision that dealing with that issue requires. Finally, we would like to emphasize the commitment of African countries and regional and subregional organizations to the second five-year review of the peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations, illustrating how regional experiences can influence global processes.

We would like to conclude by reaffirming the high priority that Chile assigns to regionalism's contribution to ensuring greater effectiveness in our system as a whole, especially through an understanding of local contexts. We believe that cooperation should be at the heart of that approach if we are to achieve a functioning multilateralism.

Mr. Gaspar Martins (Angola): I would like to thank the Nigerian presidency for organizing today's open debate and for its choice of theme, which addresses issues that the Security Council has to deal with on a daily basis. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Secretary-General for enriching our discussion this morning through his presence, which again is a way of sending a clear message that regional organizations and their joint work with the Security Council are important to his own agenda as Secretary-General. And I thank Nigeria for the excellent concept note (S/2015/599, annex) it prepared for the debate.

Angola believes that strengthening global, continental and subregional cooperation is critical to the ability of the entire international community to achieve peace, security and sustainable development. In that context we must stress the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in several innovative missions, as well as the continued engagement of the United Nations with regional organizations on the basis of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as exemplified by their interaction and consultations on developing a shared understanding of the root causes of conflicts. In that regard, the creation of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union is a milestone in that cooperation and partnership.

We have recently witnessed the resurgence in Africa of attempts to achieve unconstitutional changes of Government and other threats that are undermining national and subregional stability and affecting our peoples' human rights, progress and well-being. The nature of the threats to peace and stability in Africa has changed recently, with the appearance of terrorist groups, particularly Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram, in Kenya, Somalia, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon. In that connection, we commend the joint response to the threat of Boko Haram represented by the creation of a joint force, to which the Council has pledged its support. The security of off-shore platforms and the danger of piracy, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea, is a matter of regional and global concern as well and deserves the full attention of the international community, especially the Security Council.

The African Union's launch of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), which seeks to create a robust rapid-reaction force aimed at providing a capacity for managing and responding to security situations around the continent, is an important development. While the technical aspects of ACIRC are still being finalized, we believe that with the support of the African States, Africa's main partners and the United Nations, it will become a reality, representing a major gain in combating current and future threats to peace and security on the continent.

We reiterate that the primary responsibility for guaranteeing peace and stability is national. We welcome the initiatives of subregional organizations

such as the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for their contributions to addressing subregional security. Angola strongly supports African ownership in addressing and responding to contemporary challenges to regional peace and security on the continent.

In conclusion, I would once again like to thank you, Madam President, for bringing to the Security Council this important topic, so crucial to peace and security in the world today and in the future.

Mr. Wilson (United Kingdom): I would like to thank you, Madam President, for convening today's very important debate. I also thank the Secretary-General for sending a very clear signal to the Council about how important it is that we cooperate effectively with regional and subregional institutions.

That relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations is one of the greatest structural issues for the Security Council. At their best, the United Nations and the region work in partnership towards shared objectives, harnessing each other's expertise and making a difference to lives for people across the world. When it works, we are very strong; when it does not, none of us achieve what we want to achieve. Therefore, cooperation is indispensable. The challenges facing the Council cannot be tackled by one body on its own. We need the united efforts of international, regional, subregional and local bodies.

I think that is most true of all in Africa. The Council has shared objectives and shared challenges on peace and security with the African Union across the continent. Those shared challenges make our relationship with the African Union so important. At its best, that relationship makes the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people better. Somalia is a good example of that integrated partnership. The African Union's military mission, the African Union Mission in Somalia, supported by United Nations logisticians working alongside a United Nations special political mission, have been at the heart of progress in Somalia.

A joint team from the African Union and the United Nations recently made important recommendations on strengthening military and political progress in the country. The Security Council endorsed that work through resolution 2232 (2015) in the past month. The results of that close partnership make Somalia one of the few bright spots on the Council's agenda.

Bringing an end to the fighting in South Sudan is another challenge that we jointly face. We all said that 17 August was a hard deadline for an agreement to bring peace. If the Government of South Sudan will not sign up to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-plus deal, then we must all be firm on our next steps. We cannot sit by while leaders fight and their people's suffering grows.

As a member of the European Union, the United Kingdom is committed to ensuring that Europe plays its part in making the world a safer and more prosperous place. The European Union is engaged across the waterfront of international issues, and it is a key partner for the United Nations in Africa. Its role has also been clear with regard to Iran, where it was a key facilitator in the recent E3+3 Governments talks and helped to achieve an outcome of which the Council was very supportive and endorsed emphatically.

We all bring different approaches to tackling issues of peace and security. We make the most progress when we harness our comparative advantages, as the Secretary-General said. The Council's ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security does not exclude the significant talents and perspectives that regional organizations can provide, but it is important for the United Nations to be engaged at all stages of peace processes where we are required to support and implement them. The report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) has interesting things to say on this. We agree with the Panel that consultative decision-making, a common strategy and division of labour are key components of the relationship between the Council and regional organizations. We also agree that partnerships with regional and subregional organizations should be part of the Council's early engagement on emerging threats. Substantive dialogue between the Council and regional organizations is an important tool, and where possible, joint analysis and planning will enable the Council to adopt clearer and better mandates, in particular where regional missions are deployed.

We encourage regional organizations to review their own planning authorization, human rights monitoring and governance structures so that together we can create a more coherent international and regional approach to conflict. It is also important for

us to work with regional organizations to identify more sustainable ways of funding their operations. The other partner in that for all of us is civil society, the media and other relevant non-State actors. This year, we have heard moving and detailed accounts in Arria Formula meetings from individuals brave enough to share their experiences in Darfur, in North Korea and in Syria. Those briefings improve our understanding of what is at stake. The testimony of those on the ground is central in alerting the international community to escalating tensions. We should continue to examine how we can work more effectively with those groups on the challenges that we face internationally.

The United Kingdom is convinced that we can and should do more to deepen our cooperation with regional organizations across the world. Our responsibility in the Council is to maintain international peace and security. Our ability to discharge that heavy responsibility will only be made stronger by deepening our relationship with regional organizations, which is why we so strongly welcome this important debate today.

Mr. Van Bohemen (New Zealand): New Zealand also thanks Nigeria for convening this meeting, and the Secretary-General for his briefing and for staying with us this morning. We are strong advocates of the role of regional organizations and of the need for cooperation between the United Nations, especially the Security Council, and regional organizations.

African leadership on this issue is important, but we must also acknowledge at the outset that these are not challenges solely limited to Africa and that the issues discussed today affect other regional organizations around the globe. The experience in our own region has been that regional organizations can be highly effective. They frequently have the comparative advantage that the Secretary-General has referred to, because of their immediate needs and interests in local stability, their understanding of the local context and, where necessary, logistical ease of deployment.

As the Secretary-General has noted this morning, the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations has strongly endorsed the role of regional organizations and made encouraging recommendations for better synergy with the United Nations, and especially the Security Council. We have seen many successful examples of regional organizations responding to emerging crises to prevent the emergence of conflict. However, we need to be honest. In addition to the issues of finance and capacity, which have already been highlighted today, there are other significant challenges to effective cooperation with regional and subregional engagement on peace and security issues. The result is that there are still too many situations where regional action is not proving sufficient to prevent or resolve crises.

Cooperation with the Security Council, particularly in the case of key organizations, such as the African Union, is still largely reactive and ad hoc. Interventions such as the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) were highly challenging, not only in terms of resourcing, but also in vision and shared understanding. That hugely complicated the process of transition to a post-AFISMA operation.

A key part of the problem, as we see it, is a failure of approach on both sides. There is just not enough political energy going into cooperation to produce the necessary collective partnership between the two Councils. Such structured cooperation between the Security Council and regional entities on developing coordinated approaches should begin at the outset when crises are emerging. The Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council need to do a better job of working in unison to complement each other and of utilizing each other's comparative advantages, starting with conflict prevention. We also believe that both organs should be less concerned about sequencing and should focus more on working together and simultaneously. Again, the High-level Panel has useful recommendations in that regard. At the end of the day, both the United Nations and the African Union (AU) have responsibilities to fulfil. They cannot avoid those by arguing that they were waiting for the other to act.

If cooperation is going to work in the long term, it requires a more systematized arrangement, based on the view that the two organizations recognize the threats in the region and wish to work with each other to address them. There is a clear capacity gap, not only in terms of the organizations themselves, but also in terms of the national capacity that Security Council members themselves deploy to promote effective cooperation. As a result, we are still some distance from the kind of coordinated approach to the assessment of key regional threats and the development of appropriate and coordinated responses that we all seek.

Furthermore, we cannot simply wish away the uncomfortable financial realities. Capacity is still a major issue for the AU and for its Peace and Security Council. The shift towards a greater role for regional

actors over the past decade has put real pressure on regional and subregional organizations to build a complex apparatus over a short period of time. There needs to be a sustained long-term focus on building effective regional conflict management frameworks so that regional organizations are fully equipped to take on tasks on behalf of the international community.

In our view, the United Nations has a clear role to play in providing assistance. Indeed, it is in the United Nations own interest to assist, because as the experiences in Mali and the Central African Republic have clearly shown, the only alternative is the United Nations itself taking on more and more highly dangerous and expensive operations and paying the full cost. Those whose positions are driven by fiscal considerations should think about how much they would have saved if those operations had been funded under some kind of innovative formula that would have resulted in only part of the cost being funded from the United Nations budget.

We suggest that the Security Council continues to have a very important role to play. The Council should continue to provide institutional support to regional organizations through dedicated United Nations resources, such as the United Nations Office for West Africa and the United Nations Office to the African Union. They are useful for building strong collaborative relationships with the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union, and have had effective results on the ground.

The Council should also look to identify effective and practical ways to improve interaction between the members of the Council and the AU Peace and Security Council. The Council must also face up to the challenge of how to fund regional and subregional peacekeeping operations, including by improving the efficiency of the existing mechanisms. The recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations concerning predictable financing for AU-led peace support operations under Security Council mandates are a useful starting point for discussion, as the Secretary-General told the Council this morning.

For our part, New Zealand supported the inaugural meeting between the 10 elected members of the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Counci in Addis Ababa at the start of this year, and with Spain, we have been meeting at the start of each month with the Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council to discuss the joint agendas of each Council. We have also sought the views of key regional actors ahead of and following key Security Council decisions. In our view, the communication between the Councils in New York and in Addis Ababa needs to be informal, regular and substantive if it is to be effective. Most of all, it must become part of the regular business of both organizations. That will indicate that we have the partnerships that the Secretary-General has rightly identified must be our objective.

Mr. Ibrahim (Malaysia): My delegation joins other Council members in thanking Nigeria for convening today's debate. We also wish to thank your delegation, Madam President, for the informative concept note (S/2015/599, annex) that has been circulated, which helps frame our debate today.

We wish to also express appreciation to the Secretary-General for his briefing, which we have heard with much interest, as well as for his untiring efforts and leadership in enhancing and consolidating the relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations around the world.

We share the view that regional actors should assume greater ownership of developments in their respective regions. Malaysia aligns itself with the statements to be delivered by the representatives of Viet Nam on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Islamic State of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Kuwait on behalf of the countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

We are of the view that today's debate comes at a particularly timely juncture as threats to international peace and security have become increasingly complex and challenging, with trans-border elements and other multi-layered regional dimensions. As rightly envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations has been and remains at the forefront of international, multilateral efforts to combat such new challenges, which range from blatant violations of international law, terrorism, transnational organized crime, humanitarian crises, environmental degradation and the outbreak of deadly diseases, among others.

However, the authors of the Charter of the United Nations also had the foresight to presage that while the Organization and the Council would constitute the hub of the international peace and security architecture, they could not substitute for regional and subregional arrangements and organizations, which should perform

such functions at that level, as envisioned by Chapter VIII of the Charter.

Over the years, regional organizations such as the African Union (AU), ASEAN, the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, among others, have embarked on pragmatic steps, including by modifying their outlook and perspectives in order to more effectively meet and address changing global dynamics. At the same time, the Council has also taken steps to promote and enhance its engagement with regional organizations, including through the adoption of relevant decisions and through the convening of joint regular consultative meetings such as with the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee. Furthermore, close partnerships with various regional bodies on many important strategic areas — such as conflict prevention, mediation and peacekeeping operations — have also been established and strengthened over time.

To date, cooperation and coordination among regional organizations in dealing with conflict and security challenges have been encouraging. Examples include the partnership between the African Union and the EU and the coordination between the AU and African subregional organizations to address threats to peace and security in the African continent. Malaysia believes that strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations is vital in addressing contemporary global security challenges. We further believe that multilayered partnerships between the Council and regional organizations could serve as a strong foundation of the future global security agenda.

From our perspective within ASEAN, Malaysia places great value and importance on the role played by regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, the deployment of peacekeeping operations, post-conflict building and reconstruction and other important areas. On its own, ASEAN has placed greater emphasis on creating an enabling environment for peace in order to ensure uninterrupted economic development. It has promoted regional architecture towards stability and prosperity, including tools for conflict prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Based on our experience, we support further efforts to deepen cooperation between the United Nations, and the Council in particular, and regional bodies. That said, we wish to highlight the following. The level and degree of intraregional cooperation varies significantly among regions, based on the unique historical and political background of each region. In addition, their aspirations, mandates and activities vary enormously. In that regard, we believe that cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations will be more rewarding when such diversity is duly observed and considered. Any form of cooperation should be inclusive, flexible, responsive and adaptable, especially in the case of complex joint endeavours such as peacekeeping, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

While regional organizations may provide an attractive alternative to an overstretched United Nations mission, it is important to bear in mind that regional bodies are also vulnerable to similar problems faced by the United Nations. While being mindful of the advantage of regional organizations in better understanding the conflicts in their regions, experience in dealing with situations such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia, Darfur and the Central African Republic, among others, has revealed the limitations of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Without sufficient financial and capacity-building support, the aspirations and determination of regional organizations could outstrip their ability to deliver, particularly in harsh and challenging parts of the world. Consequently, burden-sharing can easily become burden-shifting as the international community places unrealistic expectations on regional organizations that have yet to build full capacity.

We are of the view that although significant progress has been made in improving mutual cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, we strongly believe that more can be done. We hope that the discussion today will generate more ideas and strategies in order to deepen, expand and improve cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as among the regional bodies, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the international community to respond effectively to new and old threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Nigerian delegation for convening this meeting on regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security. I also thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing.

Chad aligns itself with the statement to be made by the observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

The growing number and intensification of internal conflicts and the appearance of new serious threats — including terrorism, the proliferation of weapons, piracy at sea, transnational organized criminality, trafficking in drugs, arms and human, separatism and power conflicts, environmental degradation and pandemics — make coordinated regional action and a comprehensive approach more necessary than ever to address those manifold challenges. The cross-border nature of most security challenges in Africa, as well as the insufficient means at the disposal of individual countries, require the strengthening of regional organizations, which are the only bodies able to provide effective responses to insecurity in its many and multiplying forms across the world.

In that regard, the African Union (AU) has adopted a peace and security architecture and developed exemplary cooperation with the United Nations, whose Charter in Chapter VIII recognizes its role in the prevention, resolution and peaceful settlement of conflict. Thus, the AU has not only deployed peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, but has also undertaken its own activities in the area of conflict prevention and crisis management, including in Burundi, the Sudan, Somalia, Mali, the Central African Republic, and so on.

In spite of its experience and significant means, the United Nations alone cannot be everywhere all the time to tackle the manifold challenges in the areas of peace and security. That is why in Africa, where more than 62.5 per cent of United Nations peacekeeping operations and 87 per cent of uniformed personnel are deployed, the African Union is a key strategic partner that deserves to be supported so that it can shoulder its responsibilities in the area of peace and security on the continent. In Mali and in Central Africa, cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, through the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States, has allowed for the swift deployment of African troops. We welcome such cooperation and the support of the United Nations to the African Union through the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme, the provision of technical assistance and political support through the United Nations Office to the AU in Addis Ababa. Chad favours the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations, and reiterates its support for the Common African Position on the United Nations Review of Peace Operations.

Relations between the two organizations are evolving in a positive manner, but they have not yet attained the degree of strategic cooperation we would like to see. We encourage the United Nations prioritize a resolution to the urgent matter of financing African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council. The two organizations must adopt specific measures to make financing of United Nations-mandated African Union peacekeeping operations of the Union more flexible, lasting and predictable, as recommended by the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, whose high-quality and serious work we commend. We hope that all the other relevant recommendations of the High-level Panel will enjoy the attention of the Council. Despite its lack of predictable resources, which significantly hinders its ability to undertake peacekeeping and security operations on the continent, the African Union has comparative advantages, such as geographic proximity, legitimacy, an understanding of the root causes of conflict and the ability to swiftly intervene in case of crisis, as recalled by many speakers today.

Given the transnational, even transcontinental dimension of contemporary security challenges, the development of rapid reaction capacity by the African Union — including the African Standby Force — three of whose five regional brigades should be operational by the end of 2015 — and the operationalization of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises could provide the Security Council with the means to act first when a crisis emerges.

Chad welcomes cooperation between the African Union and the European Union, two close partners of the United Nations in peacekeeping in Africa. The continent is hosting nine European Union civilian missions and military operations. Through the African Peace Facility, these are financing the African Union Mission in Somalia, which is a model of cooperation between the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations. It has also contributed to the deployment of the African Union operations in Mali and the Central African Republic. Chad welcomes the European Union's efforts and underscores the importance of trilateral cooperation among the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations in addressing the common security and peace challenges on the continent.

Strengthening cooperation between regional organizations and civil society and non-governmental

organizations is of paramount importance because such organizations could provide advantages and a useful capacity to shore up peace and other activities relating to conflict management. In the African context, the importance of civil society, in particular women and youth, was reflected in the African Union decision marking 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa's Agenda 2063. It would be a good idea to strengthen the capacity of African civil society organizations and to encourage their participation in resolving matters tied to peace and security.

In conclusion, we note that the majority of security challenges in Africa and the world know no borders and require States and regional organizations to draw more on their mutual efforts to suppress such threats. No organization, including the United Nations, or region can respond to the many challenges relating to collective security alone. Only a solid, reliable and viable partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, based on a division of labour and taking into account the relative comparative advantages, and strongly supported by the United Nations, can address the manifold challenges to peace and security on the continent. In that connection, the African Union and its subregional mechanisms have developed institutional and operational capacities to play their full role, provided that the United Nations provides significant financial support.

Mr. Pressman (United States of America): I thank you, Madam President, for organizing this important debate. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

While the nature of threats to global security has become more complex and challenging over the course of the United Nations 70-year history, the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations has become truly indispensable. We have made much progress in strengthening these partnerships, and we must collectively recommit to continuing to do so. Part of that effort will have to grapple with two increasingly relevant phenomena in the evolving relationship between regional organizations, subregional organizations and the United Nations: overlapping responsibilities and inequities and the need to improve the support provided by the international community to support the work of regional organizations.

In the United States about 50 years ago, a programme known as Neighbourhood Watch was created. The idea was simple. Neighbours note when something is awry and they have a vested interest in ensuring that their communities and neighbours are safe. Now regional and subregional organizations are obviously much more than the Neighbourhood Watch of the international system, but regional and subregional organizations, as neighbours, are uniquely positioned to recognize root causes more accurately and to identify solutions earlier than organizations further away. When regional or subregional organizations engage, they do so with the benefit that comes from being a neighbour. They bring a unique capacity to understand local experiences, cultures and the complexity of the challenges being confronted. As neighbours, they are often better positioned to watch for problems and to act on them.

But peacemaking and peacekeeping are not and never should become something that concerns neighbours alone. Indeed, the United Nations system, and United Nations peacekeeping especially, are premised on the idea that sometimes those further removed from deeply engrained challenges — strangers, even, rather than neighbours — are in a unique position to neutrally and effectively engaged to protect people endangered by their neighbours. That is why the Charter of the United Nations envisions a robust partnership between those closest to conflict and the United Nations itself. Both roles are essential.

As the complementary and, at times, overlapping responsibilities of regional organizations, subregional organizations and the United Nations develop, there appears to be an increasing bifurcation of political and peacekeeping processes. Regional and subregional organizations have taken on an increasingly important role in facilitating, if not running, political processes to resolve conflicts and reach peace agreements, even when the Security Council has deployed a peacekeeping operation with responsibility for protecting civilians from being victimized in that conflict. This bifurcation of responsibilities sometimes offers important benefits, but it can also come with a price. While neighbours bring familiarity and ownership, they can also bring independent equities and interests. In order for our partnerships to be effective, we need to share responsibility and accountability even as we divide our labour based on comparative advantages.

In South Sudan, while the Security Council has deployed over 12,000 troops to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, the Security Council has

deferred to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to lead mediation efforts. Given the outrageous failure of the parties to reach an agreement yesterday, support for the regional political process now must mean a readiness of the Security Council to take action, mobilize our collective resources, and increase pressure accordingly on those who frustrate peace. We must advance meaningful efforts to hold perpetrators of atrocities accountable.

As part of our commitment to strengthening the United Nations capacity to support peacekeeping missions, the United States will co-host a summit this fall at the United Nations to secure new commitments and greater international support for United Nations peacekeeping. We must also, however, ensure that regional forces have the necessary support, training and equipment to carry out their critical work. Where the Security Council has authorized a regional organization, such as the African Union, to undertake critical actions to advance international peace and security, we need to ensure that the regional mission has the resources needed to execute its mandate effectively.

But just as the Security Council needs to remain involved when political processes are being carried out by regional actors, so too does the Security Council need to retain accountability and oversight when it authorizes regional or subregional organizations to undertake peace operations. In particular, we need to ensure that all operations carried out under Security Council authority operate with the same respect for human rights and zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse.

The stakes for getting the relationship between regional subregional organizations and the United Nations right could not be higher. As neighbours close to a conflict or strangers far from it, each of us must do more to work cooperatively and effectively to support our partners in the important work of advancing peace.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela thanks Nigeria for convening this important thematic debate and expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his briefing. Furthermore, we endorse the statement to be made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The concept note circulated by the Nigerian presidency (S/2015/599, annex) rightly points out that the end of the Cold War led to the strengthening of regional and subregional organizations with greater political space and international relevance. Venezuela believes strongly that the emerging multipolar and multicentre world bodes very positively for the strenghening of international peace and security. In this process, sustained cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is critical to achieving the definitive abandonment of unilaterlism in international affairs. In this respect, we stress the need to work towards a more balanced world in which regional organizations have an important role to play in ensuring peace and security. Venezuela therefore calls for the expansion and strengthening of regional organizations, as well as for increasing interaction and relationships among them, since they are the natural agencies for preventing and resolving the conflicts that threaten world peace.

Regional organizations are prior and complementary entities in the United Nations efforts to maintain peace and security, with particular emphasis on their preventive capacities. In fulfilling these tasks, regional organizations should fully respect all the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and the self-determination of peoples. Regional organizations cannot promote war.

Over the past 15 years, Latin America and the Caribbean have seen a profound change in their structures and political and social institutions with the emergence of a clear, progressive orientation towards a multipolar and multicentre world, inspired by President Hugo Chávez and other great regional leaders, including Commandante Fidel Castro Ruz and Presidents Nestor Kirschner, Evo Morales Ayma, Rafael Correa, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Lula da Silva, Dilma Rousseff and Michelle Bachelet Jeria, among others. It has created a new regional political architecture that answers more to the interests of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean than to the interests of any other Power, leaving far behind regional organizations that, rather than represent the interests of Latin America and the Caribbean, subordinate them to alien interests and needs.

Thus, these past 15 years have seen the emergence of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), PetroCaribe, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Community of Latin American

and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Southern Common Market, now expanded and re-energized. This break with the past represents a reaffirmation of the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs and political independence, and the definition of the interests and priorities of the countries of the region. These political integration processes are based on the need for mutual respect and benefit in preserving peace with social justice.

The Union of South American Nations is built on the common resolve of all the countries of the subregion. UNASUR has demonstrated its ability to act quickly and decisively to prevent any corruption of the constitutional order, as happened in Bolivia against President Evo Morales Ayma in 2008 and against President Rafael Correa in Ecuador in 2010, when the member countries of that forum spoke up in favour of the validity of the constitutional and democratic order in those sister nations, in rejection of the insurrectionary and separatist claims of the insurgents. UNASUR now has a democratic protocol, signed in 2010, that provides for the imposition of diplomatic, political and economic sanctions in case of a breakdown of the democratic order in the South American region.

Furthermore, ALBA was born of an initiative of the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, to strengthen the self-determination of peoples and the sovereignty of States against the neocolonial policies of foreign Powers and consistently in favour of the poorest and most excluded. ALBA is not a subregional defence mechanism. It is an organization that is sensitive to the social, economic and environmental challenges facing the peoples of the region. It is committed to the fight against poverty and inequality. It is aware of the inequities among rich, middle-income and least developed countries. And it is focused on the complementarity of economies, and not on voracious and predatory competition. Cooperation and respect are pillars of peace.

The greatest illustration of the commitment of ALBA with regard to the development of the peoples of the region is the establishment of PetroCaribe, in 2005. Conceived as an initiative to promote energy security in Central America and the Caribbean, PetroCaribe benefits more than 17 countries. It is a model of cooperation based on energy integration and founded on the principles of solidarity and special but differential treatment in the region. That cooperation is taking place in absolute respect for the agreements of the Caribbean Community and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, as outstanding examples of South-South cooperation among our countries.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is an example of pluralistic multilateralism and of unity in diversity among its members. Those aspects have allowed CELAC to make progress firmly in the development of common policies in such sensitive areas as sustainable development, climate change, nuclear disarmament, illicit drug trafficking, rejecting the embargo against Cuba, rejecting sanctions against Venezuela, and support for the process of the decolonization of the Malvinas and Puerto Rico, among others. In doing that, CELAC has highlighted its strong commitment to international peace and security, development with solidarity, partnership and the promotion of human rights. Through CELAC, not only do we consolidate the dream of the liberator Simón Bolívar for a united America, but we reiterate the historic principles of Latin America on international law with regard to self-determination, territorial inviolability and non-intervention, which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Latin America and the Caribbean still faces significant challenges, but the strength of its institutions and the commitment of its leaders and its peoples to move forward towards fair, solidarity-based and autonomous integration is the best tool at its disposal. In that context, Latin America and the Caribbean stands out as a region with a clear commitment to peace, which in the past two decades have witnessed irrefutable progress in the area of peace and security. In that regard, our countries together have the lowest rate of military spending worldwide. We strongly support the objectives with regard to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We are part of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a heavily inhabited region, set up in 1967 through the Treaty of Tlatelolco. We add our support to the principles set out in the declaration on South America as a zone of peace, as promoted by the Union of South American Nations, as well as the declaration on a zone of peace adopted by CELAC in January 2014.

That experience, founded on respect for sovereignty, rejection of interventionism, and an unlimited commitment to peace, security and international law, contribute to strengthening our cooperation with other

regional organizations in Africa and the Middle East, among others.

Lastly, we want to stress the importance of cooperation among the various regional and subregional organizations, above all in support of regions beset by terrorism, violence and war. Perhaps our experience in the South as a zone of peace could be useful to our other brotherly countries throughout the world.

Mr. Lamek (France) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Madam President, for having organized today's useful debate on the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations. I also want to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing. The complexity of current crises requires increasingly concerted action by the United Nations and regional organizations, within the framework provided by the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Chapter VIII. In that regard, I should like to make three observations.

First, regional organizations play an essential and growing role in crisis management. Their precise local knowledge and the networks they develop are an asset in understanding conflicts. Their geographic proximity allows faster deployment. And the special relationship they have with crisis States can contribute to the consolidation of fragile situations.

France encourages the already considerable involvement of regional organizations in preventing conflicts, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Today, African organizations whose efforts are intended to be integrated into the African Peace and Security Architecture are taking on more and more responsibility. They are deploying more operations to respond to crises. Besides their military involvement, their political role in mediation and support has also increased. That is of course an important development.

My second observation is that this mobilization by regional organizations is even more effective if undertaken with the various stakeholders, such as other regional organizations, States, civil society and, first and foremost, the United Nations. Two examples serve to underscore this: the strengthening of ties between the African Union and the United Nations, and the increased cooperation between African organizations and the European Union. France welcomes the strengthening of links between the African Union and the United Nations through the establishment of a United Nations Office to the African Union, in 2010, the establishment of liaison offices in New York and Addis Ababa, and the institutionalization of annual exchanges between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Regional organizations are also called upon to work together and support each other. As the Ambassador of Chad mentioned earlier, the European Union finances a number of peacekeeping operations — such as the African Union Mission in Somalia — as well as various elements of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture, including the African Standby Force and the Continental Early-Warning System. To date, the commitment of the European Union to contribute up to €450 million to support the implementation of African Peace Facility for Africa for the period 2014 to 2016 has almost been fully realized.

Beyond the financial support provided, the European Union also provides civilian and military assistance — in Libya, the Niger, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Mali. The commitment in Mali, for instance, shows the extent of the European Union's efforts, namely, as part of the European Union Capacity Building Mission for the Sahel and Mali, as well as its military mission. In that way, the European Union is helping the Government of Mali to reform and restructure its security forces. In addition, the European Union Mission on Regional Maritime Capacity-building in the Horn of Africa is providing assistance to several countries of the subregion, including surface and maritime border protection in order to combat maritime piracy.

With regard to my third observation, in the context of increasing involvement by regional organizations, France supports the recommendations of the Secretary-General set out in his report of 2 January 2015, as well as those of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. With regard to African operations in Mali and the Central African Republic, the Secretary-General has highlighted the complementarity of the United Nations and the African Union. The transition from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, and from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, serves to illustrate the comparative advantages of the two models of intervention — on the one hand, with

regard to the African Union, the rapid deployment of armed forces capable of offensive operations, and, on the other hand, with regard to the United Nations, the establishment of a peacekeeping force equipped for a longer-term operation with a different mandate.

With regard to the strategic review of peacekeeping operations, the examples of Mali and the Central African Republic have confirmed that it is essential for the United Nations to fully invest upstream in the definition of an overal framework for coordinated crisis management, both from the perspective of political and security considerations. That framework must be established in close cooperation with other regional stakeholders, so as to facilitate the implementation of United Nations standards, the training of regional contingents and to allow for better awareness on human rights issues.

Lastly, the sustainability and financial viability of military operations remain a major concern. Today, the African Union is highly dependent upon outside contributions to finance its operations. It would be fitting for African organizations — as they have expressed their intention to do — to consistently take on increased responsibility for the financial burden of their actions. France stands ready to continue its efforts and cooperation with the United Nations and all regional organizations along those lines.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Nigeria.

First, let me lend my voice to those who have expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for his very lucid briefing. I believe that the Secretary-General captured the very essence of our deliberations today.

We know that the contemporary challenges to global security are increasing, both in complexity and severity. Threats — such as extremist ideologies, terrorism, the illicit transfer and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, humanitarian disasters, human trafficking, environmental hazards, drug trafficking, the criminal use of cybertechnology and global pandemics — are critical factors that have profoundly shaped international security in contemporary times. Today's global security challenges have assumed a transnational character and are often beyond the capacity of any one country to resolve. That is why we need collective cooperation and collective action. While the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security resides with the Security Council, regional actors share and lighten the burden of the Council and provide an added layer of legitimacy to multilateralism. Regional efforts enhance the prospects for inclusiveness and consensus in addressing the challenges to global peace and security.

The drafters of the Charter of the United Nations were very perceptive in envisioning a world where the United Nations and regional organizations would work together to prevent, manage and resolve crises. Over the years, multiple instances of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations — particularly in the areas of peacekeeping and conflict prevention — have yielded significant dividends. We believe that those gains hold a lot more promise for the future. In today's world, international security has assumed a distinct regional and institutionalized character. That has been manifested in the advocacy for the greater recourse to Chapter VIII of the Charter, to which a number of my colleagues have referred — to create a decentralized United Nations-led system of global security management.

Over the years, it has become evident that regional organizations are often the first responders to conflict situations. That point resonates more poignantly in Africa, where subregional organizations have consistently demonstrated remarkable commitment to regional peace and security by deploying peacekeepers to theatres of conflict. Several of the speakers who spoke before me this morning acknowledged that regional and subregional organizations have a deeper understanding of the sensitivities and sensibilities of the actors in conflict situations, the values and norms of their societies and the dynamics, as well as the root causes, of local conflicts. Those ingredients are crucial for fashioning a mediation strategy that parties to a conflict could more easily recognize and agree to implement.

In West Africa, for example, the Economic Community of West African States has made landmark achievements in the maintenance of peace and security — particularly in addressing conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau, among other places. That underscores the success of that organization's framework for conflict management.

There are other instances where regional organizations have relentlessly demonstrated their capacity to act in the interest of regional peace and security. The Intergovernmental Authority on

Development in East Africa has been unwavering in its conflict resolution efforts, especially in South Sudan. The East African Community is playing an active and constructive role in Burundi. The Economic Community of Central African States has made significant contributions to stabilizing the situation in the Central African Republic. The Mano River Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union (AU) have demonstrated remarkable leadership in the fight — as we heard last week (see S/PV.7502) — against the recent Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa.

The establishment of the multinational joint task force by the Lake Chad Basin countries and the Republic of Benin — with the aim of fighting the Boko Haram terrorist group — bears eloquent testimony to the possibilities that exist for regional arrangements — not only to seize the bull by the horns, but especially to advance the cause of peace and security. The successes achieved by the Task Force thus far validate the regional approach to dealing with the threat of terrorism.

Today, it is evident that the regionalization of global security is rapidly gaining remarkable momentum. In our view, it transcends a first response to crisis situations and an understanding of the people, the environment and the nuances of the conflict. Indeed, it is about all of those and more. Regional organizations — considering the contiguity of their component States — are vital stakeholders in the success — or otherwise — of peace efforts within their spheres of influence.

In our times, regional States bear the burden of the first displacements. They bear the burden of food insecurity, the recruitment of child soldiers, the sexual exploitation of women and children and other consequences of violent conflicts. While at a national level those States may have limitations — in terms of their capacities and resources to address those challenges — their membership in regional organizations has allowed them to act in concert with other States in order to mitigate the effects of those challenges.

It is important that, while we highlight the role of regional organizations in meeting contemporary challenges of global security, we should not overlook the contributions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). I think that a number of my colleagues have mentioned that issue this morning, and it is worth repeating. The advocacy of NGOs — in terms of peace of security — especially in Africa, is well documented. Non-governmental organizations have made, and continue to make, direct interventions in humanitarian crises and other emergencies. They assist in the mobilization of resources to address issues linked to conflicts. The contributions of the independent humanitarian aid group Médecins sans frontières were crucial in containing and eventually rolling back the recent Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa. All of that demonstrates the importance of NGOs in the emerging architecture, not only in Africa but also in other areas of conflict in the world. It would therefore be beneficial for the continent if African regional and subregional organizations incorporated NGOs as significant and vital partners in meeting contemporary security challenges and strengthened their cooperation with them accordingly.

A critical important dimension of the role of regional organizations in meeting global security challenges is the way and manner in which they cooperate with the United Nations. African regional and subregional organizations have worked together with the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security in several parts of the continent, as we heard this morning. There are several examples of the potential for cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organizations. The United Nations and the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) cooperated in the deployment of peacekeepers in Ethiopia and Eritrea after the OAU had mediated an accord, which the United Nations was requested to implement. In Ethiopia and Eritrea, as in Western Sahara and Rwanda, the OAU was the principal early mediator. The United Nations itself complemented that mediation by deploying peacekeepers on the ground. Within the framework of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the AU and the United Nations are working together to stabilize the situation in Darfur. The United Nations is also making substantial contributions to the African Union Mission in Somalia. All those joint actions and all those concerted actions and their positive outcomes demonstrate the value of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

It is also essential to ensure that the comparative advantages of each region be thoroughly harnessed and mobilized in the pursuit of peace. In that regard, the triangular cooperation to which my colleagues have referred among the AU, the United Nations and the European Union (EU) is exemplified by the United Nations-EU joint programme of support to the AU on

security sector reform. That is an example of the vibrant interregional cooperation that has yielded tangible results and has the potential to yield even more.

In the face of the increasing gap between the demand for the involvement of the United Nations in conflict situations, on the one hand, and the ability of the United Nations to respond effectively, on the other hand, regional organizations become even more compelling as enablers of peace. That is why we believe that greater consideration should be accorded to expanding and enhancing regional approaches to the pursuit of international peace and security. Regional approaches, in essence, represent a critical bridge between the international and global dimensions of conflict. It is a bridge that we must continue to build, no matter how challenging that will appear at times. I believe that today's debate is not only a call to greater action, it is an urgent demand to accelerate regional and international cooperation in a world that is ravaged by conflict, by humanitarian crisis and by disease.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to conduct its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber. I would also like to appeal to speakers to deliver their statements at a very reasonable speed so that accurate interpretation may be provided.

I give the floor to the representative of India.

Mr. Bishnoi (India): We thank you, Madam President, for organizing today's debate on regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security. We also thank your delegation for the useful concept note (S/2015/599, annex) it has prepared. We also take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive briefing he provided.

India supports the role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The role discharged by such organizations should, however, be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The principles of national sovereignty and the political independence, unity and territorial integrity of States must be fully respected. It is also our belief that the peaceful resolution of conflicts should be the first priority — both of the Security Council and of regional organizations. The recent report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) highlights the fact that peacekeeping cannot substitute for political solutions. No purpose would be served by having regional organizations struggle to manage conflict with military tools while political processes are either not under way or have not been concluded.

Chapter VIII of the Charter refers to regional arrangements and agencies. There is therefore a clear requirement for vicinity — or geographical contiguity. It is important to note that Chapter VIII does not envisage any role for organizations formed on any other basis, whether of language, religion or historical coincidence. Any overly liberal interpretation of terminology would violate the Charter and would also be counterproductive.

We would also like to caution that, while regional organizations can at times play a useful role in assisting the United Nations, the primacy of the United Nations itself cannot be denied. Speaking of Africa, the United Nations cannot disengage with that continent by subcontracting peacekeeping under regional arrangements. We would need to start worrying if the impartiality of peacekeepers were called into question. That, however, is a possibility that cannot be ruled out with the regionalization and subregionalization of peacekeeping. In cases where the United Nations does depend upon regional organizations for peacekeeping, it is important that there should be full consultations before arrangements are put into place. That would mean that troop-contributing countries should be invited to participate in the decisions of the Council in accordance with Article 44 of the Charter of the United Nations. This is necessary for mandates to be realistic, and also for obtaining the full cooperation of those who will actually be carrying out implementation on the ground.

We would like to take this opportunity to call attention to the fact that the Charter has clear provisions for the Council to be kept fully informed of actions undertaken under regional arrangements for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, such information is not shared with the wider membership of the United Nations. We would like to request that consideration be given to including that information in the annual reports of the Security Council.

In conclusion, we would also like to draw attention to the fact that at least two thirds of the work of the Security Council relates to Africa. There is, however, no representation of that continent in the permanent membership of the Council. That shortcoming seriously undermines the legitimacy of the Council's decisions. Until such time as that historical injustice is addressed, the decisions of the Council will lack full force. The seventieth anniversary of the Organization, in our view, provides a most opportune moment to rectify that grave lacuna.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Yoshikawa (Japan): I thank you very much, Madam President, for convening this open debate. I listened to your statement with great interest. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

The international community today sees regional organizations playing significant roles in ensuring international peace and security. That is indeed what was expected when the Charter of the United Nations was drafted, as evident from its Chapter VIII, on regional arrangements.

In response to a suggestion made in the very useful concept note (S/2015/599) that you, Madam President, distributed earlier, I wish to focus today on the Asia-Pacific region, to which Japan belongs. I would like first to introduce the roles played by regional frameworks in ensuring peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region and then share with the Council our view on how to further enhance their roles.

In East Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) has been serving as an ASEAN-centric ministerial framework to address political and security issues for more than 20 years. The mission of ARF is to foster confidence-building in the region. To that end, ARF not only provides a venue for candid discussions among ministers, but it also embraces a wide range of challenging issues such as disaster relief, maritime security, counter-terrorism and transnational crime, as well as non-proliferation and disarmament. I am proud to note that Japan has actively contributed to the activities of ARF by, for example, co-chairing and organizing a number of ARF intersessional meetings and official events.

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is another notable example. Established in 2005, the EAS has been providing a unique forum for the leaders of 18 countries of the Asia-Pacific region to gather and discuss issues of common interest and concern, including political and security challenges, from a strategic point of view.

The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is also an example of a regional framework at the summit level in the Pacific. It aims to promote cooperation among its 16 member States in a wide range of areas, including political and security challenges. Since 1997, the Prime Minister of Japan has hosted the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting with the 16 PIF member States, aimed at realizing the stability and prosperity of the Pacific.

In the Asia-Pacific region, a number of regional frameworks are therefore being developed in a multilayered manner, reflecting the political, economic and cultural diversity of the region. We are convinced that the further development of these frameworks is essential to ensuring peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. It is from this standpoint that Japan advocates the further strengthening of the role of the East Asia Summit in the political and security field, and developing it as a premier forum of the region.

Finally, let me refer to the supplementary role that the United Nations and regional frameworks can play in the Asia-Pacific region.

In my view, in order to identify the most appropriate bodies to deal with particular challenges, it is important to examine the nature of each challenge on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes the direct involvement of the United Nations might be more appropriate, which is what happened in the case of Cambodia in the 1990s. Sometimes regional frameworks are more effective in handling issues on a region-wide scale, such as in terms of combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. Efforts to ensure nuclear non-proliferation in East Asia are a notable example of the fact that a dual approach, at both the United Nations and the regional level, is important.

Japan will not cease in its endeavour to strengthen multilateral frameworks in the Asia-Pacific region and develop closer relations with the United Nations and the relevant regional organizations, with a view to realizing a more stable and peaceful Asia-Pacific.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Bjällerstedt (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden.

Let me first, like so many other speakers here today have done, thank you, Madam President, for having convened this timely debate on the role of regional organizations in meeting contemporary challenges of global security. The complexity of global security threats and the growing number of intra-State conflicts call for a greater regional approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The Nordic countries therefore welcome this valuable opportunity to discuss the importance of forging stronger partnerships with regional organizations and thus building a more resilient global and regional architecture for maintaining international peace and security.

Through the United Nations Charter, we have committed to working together to achieve peace and security, human rights and economic and social development. This shared responsibility rests on a web of global governance, of which strategic partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations are a fundamental aspect. Today such partnerships are even more essential, not least in the face of new threats with increasing cross-border risks through transnational crime; illegal trafficking in people, illicit arms and narcotics; and well-armed groups of terrorists and extremists.

The Nordic countries have consistently advocated for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The increased collaboration between the Security Council and the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council is thus a welcome development. Another good example is the close work between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in very challenging situations of limited humanitarian access on issues ranging from conflict prevention and counter-terrorism to human rights, humanitarian affairs and sustainable development. There are many other good examples as well.

In order to build stronger partnerships, we need a clear strategic vision. We therefore welcome the three reviews on United Nations peacemaking: on peace operations; on resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security; and on the peacebuilding architecture. We in particular welcome the fact that the report on peace operations highlights the need for better cooperation with regional organizations, and we wholeheartedly subscribe to the view that there is an urgent need to find mechanisms to ensure predictable and sustainable funding for regional peacekeeping arrangements that are consistent with the United Nations Charter and its Chapter VIII.

African-led peace-support and peace-enforcement missions are today operating in the most challenging conditions. Better capabilities need to be built, enablers provided and personnel trained in order to improve the protection of peacekeepers and to ensure their capacity to protect civilians in harm's way. In other words, and to reiterate what United States President Obama said in Addis Ababa last month ahead of the summit on peacekeeping in September, we need to develop a new partnership between the United Nations and the AU that can provide reliable support for AU peace operations. At the same time, we need to keep in mind that cooperation is most effective when guided by the principles of burden-sharing and complementarity. Partnerships must be forged on a common understanding of what each organization can do in any given situation and on a realistic assessment of one another's comparative advantages and mandates.

The Nordic countries have engaged in supporting the capacities of the AU and subregional organizations, including the strengthening of the mediation capacities of these organizations. This engagement stands a much better chance of producing added value with a system in place for predictable resourcing for regional peacemaking and peacekeeping.

The Nordic commitment in supporting peace and security in Africa and elsewhere is to a large extent focused on tackling the root causes of conflict, instability and fragility. Effective conflict prevention and sustainable peacebuilding go hand in hand, which puts emphasis on the need for strategic coordination and a robust system for early action at a global as well as a regional level. We welcome the fact that such collaboration is already taking place today through the joint consultations of the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, as well as between the European Union and the AU. The United Nations Peacebuilding Commission can also contibute further by holding regular consultations with regional bodies in order to discuss early warning and shared conflict analysis. The African Union, the United Nations and subregional organizations can, and should, do better in conflict prevention. There have been some hard lessons learned by all actors in recent years, inter

alia in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi. Sometimes both the United Nations and regional actors must act sooner.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of the full and active inclusion and participation of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, as well as in post-conflict efforts and cooperation. It is the experience of the Nordic countries that women's genuine participation in all aspects of peacemaking is an indispensable foundation for solid peace and sustainable development. That interdependence is also underlined in the new sustainable development goals and their targets for peaceful development.

Local ownership is a precondition for bringing legitimacy and effectiveness into peacemaking efforts, as well as for facing other challenges — something we were strongly reminded of by the briefing on the Ebola epidemic here in the Security Council last week (see S/PV.7502). I can assure the Council that the Nordic countries will remain firm supporters in forging stronger partnerships with regional organizations, and we look forward to the follow-up on the three reviews of the United Nations peacemaking.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Westcott: I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

I would first like to thank you, Madam President, for taking the initiative to convene this open debate on an important topic, and for the excellent concept note (S/2015/599, annex) and for highlighting the work of the European Union in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and mediation.

The global and European security environments have changed dramatically in recent years. The conflicts, threats and instability in the EU's immediate and wider neighbourhood, together with the long-standing and emerging security challenges affecting Iraq, Libya, the Sahel, Syria and Ukraine, are having an impact on Europe's security as well as on international peace and security, and represent a common challenge to our fundamental values and principles. This changing global environment was outlined by the High Representative in her report to the European Council in June, which launched work on an EU global strategy on foreign and security policy. In May, it also prompted European foreign and defence ministers to call for a stronger Europe and a more effective common security and defence policy.

Among the many challenges we see, there is a need to address in particular the challenge of terrorism and foreign fighters, maritime security and organized crime, including the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings. Those are in addition to the challenges posed by irregular migration, climate change, energy security, cybersecurity and space security. To address those challenges, the EU and its member States are assuming increased responsibilities to act as a security provider, at the international level and in particular in our neighbourhood, in order to enhance our own security and our strategic role in the world and to respond to those challenges together with the international community.

Our response is focused on a comprehensive approach to preventing and managing conflicts, using both our Common Security and Defence Policy and the other policies and instruments of the European Union. In particular, preventing conflicts and relapses into conflict, in accordance with international law, is a primary objective of our external action, working together with global, regional, national and local partners.

Since the adoption, in 2001, of the so-called Gothenburg Programme, the EU has developed an early-warning system, strengthened its mediation and dialogue capacities and established its own mediation support team. In that field we have developed close cooperation with regional and international organizations. We recently hosted a meeting in Brussels on preventive diplomacy and mediation, with experts from the United Nations, the League of Arab States, the African Union (AU) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). That approach has helped the European Union to facilitate crucial agreements — between Belgrade and Pristina in 2013, and last month between the E3+3 and Iran on a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that is contributing to a comprehensive, long-lasting and peaceful solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The Plan of Action also strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime as a

whole, and that will be monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The European Union will remain committed to effective multilateralism. That commitment is enshrined in our founding treaty, according to which the EU

> "shall contribute to peace, security, sustainable development [and] the strict observance ... of international law, including respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter."

We therefore work particularly closely with the United Nations at the heart of the multilateral system.

In 2011, the General Assembly itself underlined the EU's special relationship with the United Nations through its resolution 65/276, which recognizes the EU's partnership with the Organization. This partnership, particularly with regard to peace and security, comes under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, which explicitly recognizes and encourages that regional arrangements should be put in place. The Secretary-General recently built on that in drawing up his report on partnering for peace and partnership peacekeeping (S/2015/229), which we thoroughly welcome and support.

As a rather unique regional organization, we cooperate very closely with the United Nations at the strategic level through our United Nations-European Union Steering Committee and high-level dialogue on crisis management, as well as through joint consultative mechanisms and arrangements for operational cooperation on the ground in places such as the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia. In order to strengthen that further, we welcome the recent joint identification of priority areas for strengthening the EU-United Nations strategic partnership, which, among other things, underline the importance of EU member States' contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Both the EU and the United Nations are currently engaged in crucial strategic reviews, in order to face the challenges more effectively. We welcome the reports issued by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) and by the Advisory Group of Experts on their respective reviews of peace operations and the peacebuilding architecture, which reflect well the EU's contribution. We particularly look forward to the review of resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security. Ensuring follow-up to those reports with concrete steps will be crucial.

Similarly, improved cooperation and coordination among regional organizations is a priority for us. In that context, we are pleased about something that you yourself pointed out, Madam President, which is the partnerships we have developed, in particular with the African Union, as well as with African subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community, the Economic Community of Central African States and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

At the most recent EU-Africa Summit, in Brussels last year, the EU strongly supported African aspirations and commitment to ensuring peace, security and stability on the continent in the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture. In order to improve the African capacity to handle crises, we committed to operationalizing the multidimensional African Standby Force and recognizing the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises as a transitional tool that is complementary to the Force, and thereby enhancing the AU's capacity to respond rapidly to crises and reinforce its continental early warning system. Progress on that is to be welcomed, and closer cooperation between the AU and its regional organizations is of great value. In that respect, we particularly value the positive role the AU has played in the recent crisis in Burundi in recalling very clearly the principles of the African Charter for good governance and democracy.

We have supported AU-led peace operations themselves in a number of ways. In the 10 years since 2004, the EU has provided €1.4 billion to AU-led peace operations through the African Peace Facility. I am happy to announce that we recently agreed to increase the Facility provision from €750 million to €900 million for the next three-year period, to respond to the increasing crises. It will enable us not only to continue our support for the efforts of the African Union Mission in Somalia and the IGAD-led monitoring and verification mechanism in South Sudan, but also to provide funding for the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram and the ECOWAS mission to Guinea-Bissau.

But the long-term solution is to reinforce the AU's own capabilities and fund all these. We provide additional support through the European Development Fund and the Instrument for Stability to build long-term African sustainability. The EU, in addition, has deployed a Common Security and Defence Policy missions in Mali, the Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Central African Republic, specifically to enhance the capacity of local security operations to deal with the challenges they face. Those include security sector reform, border management, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, which we support through the provision of advice, mentoring and training. Where there are regional security challenges, such as piracy, trafficking and terrorism, we have adopted a regional strategic approach for the Sahel, the Gulf of Guinea and the Horn of Africa. Once again, those approaches are built very strongly on triangular cooperation among the EU, the AU and the United Nations in order to face the challenges.

It is not in Africa alone that the EU has been active. We have developed partnerships with other regional organizations. Earlier this month, High Representative Federica Mogherini travelled to Malaysia to participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum and to co-chair the EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference. In that context, allow me to reiterate our appreciation to Malaysia for kindly hosting those two important meetings.

The European Union also cooperates closely with NATO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. All EU member States are participating States in the OSCE and the Council of Europe, and 22 member States belong to NATO. The EU cooperates closely with NATO, both strategically and operationally, in crisis management, for example, off the Horn of Africa and in the Western Balkans. Most recently, the focus of the partnership with the OSCE has been the conflict in Ukraine, where the OSCE role is central and has the EU's full support, including through considerable EU financial and material support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. However, the scope of our partnership is much broader and covers such important issues as election observation, arms control and the many OSCE field presences throughout the wider European region. We consider the OSCE to be a central and inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence-building in the current crisis in European security. Cooperation with the Council of Europe is also important in the context of the Ukrainian conflict in focusing on support for constitutional and judicial reform.

We are now facing a particularly dramatic situation in the Mediterranean, on the European Union's own borders, which illustrates very well many of today's themes. Since 17 April, in which more than 800 migrants died in a single dramatic incident, the EU has adopted a comprehensive plan for substantial measures to deal with the challenges faced in the Mediterranean. Dealing with migration is a common interest of all countries around the Mediterranean, in the Sahel and in East Africa. It is not only a humanitarian problem, but also a political and a security problem for our men ber States and the wider neighbourhood, and therefore involves joint efforts with our partners in the AU, the Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process and with the League of Arab States.

The current situation in the Mediterranean is an example of how international organized crime is involved with the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of human beings and how that can destabilize a whole region and put the basic rights and the lives of thousands of migrants at risk. In response to that threat, the European Union decided to launch in June, in addition to the naval operations Triton and Poseidon, operated by Frontex, another naval operation, the European Union Naval Force-Mediterranean, with the mandate to disrupt the business model of smuggling and trafficking networks. It is already engaged in collecting information and intelligence about those networks. Once the Council provides the required authorization, it will enable the operation to actively disrupt the smugglers and traffickers' business, in full respect for international law and the Security Council mandate. That will also be undertaken in close cooperation with the Libyan authorities in order to ensure that the legitimate livelihoods of Libyans are not affected. We will also ensure that the rights of the refugees and migrants are fully protected, and we are pleased to have established close cooperation with the United Nations, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in that regard.

Many migrants risk their lives to travel across the Mediterranean to Europe, often driven by despair, poverty, conflict or human rights abuses, which means that we also need to cooperate with the countries of origin and transit and to do more to address the root causes of migration. We will do so in close cooperation

with the regional organizations concerned. On 11 and 12 November, we will hold a conference with African partners in Valletta to build our common vision and agree on common action on migration to tackle the challenge in the Mediterranean. A high-level meeting on the Western Balkan route is also envisaged.

Furthermore, the EU supports underpinning regional cooperation frameworks, such as the Rabat and Khartoum Processes, and provides increased support to border management across Africa and more widely, including through the Common Security and Defence Policy missions, such as that in the Niger. The EU also supports the development of return and migration management capacities, including at the regional level in Western Africa. But above all, we want to look at addressing the root causes of migration and, where we can, to support local efforts to tackle conflicts and human rights abuses and to improve the socioeconomic conditions in the countries of origin so that people are no longer feel forced to flee their own countries.

Finally, Madam President, I thank you very much for your time and for the opportunity to contribute to this debate from the EU's perspective.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Ayebare.

Mr. Ayebare: At the outset, Madam President, allow me to thank you for convening this important debate of the Security Council, which comes at a time of growing awareness of the critical role of regional organizations in responding to the changing dynamics in the nature of conflicts and security threats. I would also like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing and for his commitment to supporting the African Union (AU) partnership with the United Nations.

The quest for peace and security remains the most pressing among the many challenges facing Africa. Over the past two decades, the continent has witnessed a new set of threats, which include governance-related intra-State conflicts and violence, terrorism and transnational crime, piracy on both the East and West coasts of Africa, border disputes and the effects of climate change, as well as environmental degradation. To address those challenges, sustained efforts have been made to strengthen the capacities of the African Union to respond to the ever-changing nature of the threats we face. With the entry into force of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union in 2003, the response to conflicts and threats has been greatly enhanced. Cooperation between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council is of crucial importance in that regard.

In addition to the Peace and Security Council, other pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture are already in place, including the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force and the African Peace Fund. I am happy to report that four pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture are already in place. Efforts to operationalize the African Standby Force are ongoing, and we expect that to be completed by the end of the year. An exercise code-named Amani Africa II is expected to take place in South Africa from 19 October to 7 November to validate the full operational capacity and rapid deployment capacity of the Standby Force.

The lessons learned from the peace operations in Mali and the Central African Republic led to the establishment of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), which will significantly strengthen both the speed and robustness of our response to emergency situations. By January 2014, ACIRC had been declared ready for operation. Member States of the AU handed over the authorization of its operation to the African Union Peace and Security Council. The operationalization of ACIRC will not in any way undermine the full operationalization of the African Standby Force.

Between 2013 and 2015, an average of 30,000 to 40,000 uniformed personnel were serving annually in African-led peace support operations. In addition, Africa contributed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions, increasing from 10,000 personnel in 2003 to over 35,000 in 2014, the majority of whom have been deployed on the African continent.

Since 2002, the AU has deployed a number of peace support operations in response to conflict situations on the continent, notably in Burundi, Darfur, Mali, the Central African Republic and Somalia. The stabilization efforts carried out by those missions and the sacrifices made by their personnel have greatly paved the way for, and facilitated the task of, the United Nations missions that eventually took over. In the case of Somalia, our engagement in support of the Somali Federal Government gave hope to the Somali people, as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) continues to expand and consolidate liberated areas. Let me take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our partners, including the United Nations, the

European Union and others, in ensuring AMISOM's effectiveness.

Let me mention cooperation with the regional economic communities and regional mechanisms in consolidating peace and security in Africa. Since the signing of the memorandum of understanding among the regional organizations and the African Union in 2008, a lot has been achieved in the coordination of peacekeeping operations and prevention initiatives, such as joint election observation, diplomatic missions and secretariat-secretariat cooperation.

However, experience in recent years has amply shown that one of the greatest constraints faced by the African Union and its regional mechanisms is the matter of flexible, sustainable and predictable sources of funding for their peace efforts. It is therefore crucial that an appropriate solution be urgently found to that question, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security. The AU is striving to have its member States increase their contributions so that outside support, including from the United Nations and our partners, is truly complementary.

In that context, the African Union welcomes the report of the High-level Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446), chaired by Mr. José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste, and looks forward to its formal and in-depth consideration by both the General Assembly and the Security Council during the Assembly's upcoming seventieth session.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Dehghani (Islamic Republic of Iran): I have the honour to make this statement of behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). At the outset, I wish to express NAM's appreciation to Nigeria for organizing this open debate and for the useful concept note (S/2015/599, annex) prepared for this important meeting. We also appreciate the briefing by the Secretary-General.

The Non-Aligned Movement underscores the important role that regional and subregional arrangements and agencies, composed of non-aligned and other developing countries, can play in the promotion of regional peace and security, as well as in economic and social development, through cooperation among countries in the regions. We have always highlighted the importance of synergy among regional and subregional initiatives to ensure complementarity and the added value of each process towards their common goals, such as political stability, economic growth and social and cultural development.

The Non-Aligned Movement has called for the intensification of the process of consultations, cooperation and coordination among the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, arrangements or agencies in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, including with regard to their mandate, scope and composition, which is useful and can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In that context, we welcome the determination of the United Nations to enhance its relationships and cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union (AU), in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. The Movement also expresses its support for the continuing efforts to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and emphasizes the importance of implementing the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme and the joint action plan for United Nations support to the African Union in peacekeeping in the short, medium and long terms, in all relevant areas.

The Movement takes note of the report prepared by the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to AU peacekeeping operations and of the report by the Secretary-General entitled "Support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations". The Movement recommends the enhancement of effective partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in order to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations.

The Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the adoption of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and international efforts aimed at mobilizing resources and assistance in support of the efforts of States of the region to address the complex security, political and humanitarian situation. The Movement underscores that the strategy should be implemented in close cooperation with the States of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb, as well as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Sahel-Saharan States and the Arab Maghreb Union.

As peace and development are mutually reinforcing, NAM, recalling the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), calls upon the international community to renew its commitment to NEPAD and other related initiatives for Africa, noting the efforts exerted by the African Union and other regional economic communities in the area of economic integration.

The Movement also recalls international, regional and national efforts aimed at, and advancing, the goal of nuclear disarmament. In that regard, we note with appreciation the efforts of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), including the adoption of a special declaration on nuclear disarmament at its second Summit, held in Havana on 28 and 29 January 2014, and further underline the importance of CELAC as an international and regional actor and a contributor to the region's further integration into the international arena.

The Non-Aligned Movement also welcomes the entry into force of the Constitutive Treaty of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) as a contribution to the cultural, social, economic and political integration of the region, and the observer status for UNASUR in the General Assembly, which began in 2011.

The Movement also notes the importance of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation as the only forum between East Asia and Latin America to enhance mutual understanding and trust and to increase political, economic, social and cultural ties and dialogue.

We support the continued efforts and commitments by the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to advance and strengthen the ASEAN Community-building process and to maintain and enhance ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture, so as to better meet the challenges and dynamics of global development, with the objectives of maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region. We also note ASEAN's endeavours in developing the ASEAN Community's post-2015 vision for adoption by ASEAN leaders at the end of 2015.

The Non-Aligned Movement also welcomes the holding of the second and the third Africa-South America Summit of Heads of State or Governments, which took place, respectively, on Margarita Island, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 26 and 27 September 2009, and in Malabo in February 2013, as an expression of strengthening friendship, solidarity and South-South cooperation between both regions.

In conclusion, NAM firmly believes that peace and security, as well as economic and social development, can be achieved through such cooperation among regions.

The President: There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list. Given the lateness of the hour, I intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was supended at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7505 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7505th meeting

Tuesday, 18 August 2015, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	Nigeria
Members:	Angola	Mr. Correia
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Cabezas
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Dabouis
	Jordan	Mr. Khair
	Lithuania	Ms. Birštunaitė
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Spain	Mr. Cimarra Etchenique
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Delleur
	United States of America	Mr. Klein
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Chavarri Cabello

Agenda

Maintenance of international peace and security

Regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security

Letter dated 5 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2015/599)

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The meeting resumed at 3.05 p.m.

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Security Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Benin and Uganda to participate in this meeting.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate their statements in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy): I thank you, Madam President, for taking the initiative to convene this open debate on such an important topic. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing this morning.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the observer of the European Union (EU) and would like to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

As pointed out by Nigeria in the concept note circulated for this meeting (S/2015/599, annex), the contemporary global security system increasingly hinges on cooperation between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations. Regional organizations can at times be better positioned to respond to emergencies and crises. The United Nations — and the Security Council — should use its comparative advantage in ensuring coherence in the response of the international community, and should avoid duplication.

While the partnership in peace operations between the United Nations and some organizations, such as the European Union, is already well established, we think that it could be further intensified. On the operational level, for instance, cooperation in support and logistics, in enhancing the exchange of information and analysis, in the rule of law and in defence and security sector reform may prove beneficial.

The same is true in regard to cooperation between the EU and other regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU). We welcome and support the efforts of the African Union to strengthen its capacity in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacekeeping, as well as its active role in defining and implementing African solutions to African problems. We are also ready to promote and support other regional and subregional initiatives in this field.

We know that the scheme for cooperation on security between the United Nations and regional organizations is built on three pillars: peacekeeping, accountability and peacebuilding. With regard to each pillar, Italy is strongly committed to further strengthening those relationships, in conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Today we would like to focus on five related challenges.

The first challenge is achieving coherence. While today we can say that coordination has improved, United Nations mandates are still rather general. That can lead to a decentralized decision-making process, which sometimes overlaps, or is not properly coordinated with, United Nations Headquarters. We should strive to ensure clarity on respective mandates at the highest political level.

The second challenge is to create a common culture in the field through training and guidance. Training is crucial to ensure the success and the reputation of a mission. Italy has a strong record in training national personnel for peace operations. Respect for human rights, the protection of civilians and a gender perspective are embedded in national military training curriculums. Since 2005, the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU), in Vicenza, has trained over 5,000 police personnel from different countries to be deployed in peacekeeping operations. That reality represents a common training platform with other regional organizations, including in the Middle East and Asia. Leadership training is key as well. To that end, full use should be made of in-house training opportunities and tools, considering the extensive offerings by the United Nations System Staff College, in Torino, the Global Service Centre, in Brindisi, and the Regional Service Centre, in Entebbe, Uganda.

The third challenge involves protecting civilians and ensuring justice. Italy has signed the Kigali Declaration on the Protection of Civilians, a document that is setting a standard that should be followed by the international community. In order to ensure the effective protection of civilians, strong unity of intent among the United Nations membership is needed. We must strengthen our support for the International Criminal Court by ensuring appropriate follow-up to Security Council referrals.

Fourthly, we must ensure a comprehensive approach through coordinated support for the justice and security sector. Rule of law and security sector reform (SSR) activities have been at the core of both United Nations and European Union missions over the past decade. The cooperation in place in Mali might set a good precedent for future endeavours. The EU's SSR mission — the European Union Capacity Building Mission for the Sahel and Mali, has been prepared in close collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We should also work for a standing working group on SSR and the rule of law that serves regional organizations and the United Nations.

Fifthly, we must invest financial and political capital in the prevention of conflicts. Preventing conflicts means affirming the primacy of politics, dialogue and mediation as essential tools to address global contemporary challenges of global security. In that framework, the role of civil society is crucial. We believe that engaging with civil society works best if it is a two-way process. It is important that regional organizations strengthen civil society's role, including through the promotion of human rights, support for the role of women and access to health care and justice.

Lastly, let me also briefly mention the issue of migration — a question that is transnational by definition, and therefore simply cannot be adequately addressed without consistent and close cooperation among States and international and regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States and the African Union.

Italy is today at the forefront of efforts to deal with migration flows in the Mediterranean Sea and will spare no efforts to keep saving the lives of hundreds of migrants every day — but solutions must be sustainable. Therefore, humanitarian interventions to save lives must be coupled with a comprehensive approach capable of dealing with the root causes of migration, and they must do so in partnership with all the stakeholders involved. That is why Italy is actively supporting the efforts to underpin new regional cooperation frameworks in that sector — for example, with the establishment of the Rabat and Khartoum processes. Italy is committed to accelerating as much as possible the implementation of concrete projects that will show the tangible benefits of that cooperation both in African and European countries.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Abdrakhmanov (Kazakhstan). We thank the Nigerian presidency for convening this important open debate today, especially in the light of the highly tense political situations and armed conflicts in certain regions of the world. We also commend the Secretary-General for addressing these important debates and for his leadership in fostering dialogue with regional and subregional organizations.

The past years have been marred by such alarming transnational and global security challenges as terrorism and radical extremism, the presence of foreign fighters, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, illicit drug trafficking, illegal migration and other serious threats. No country can fight those alone, nor can the United Nations do so by itself. Hence the call for closer cooperation with regional and subregional organizations.

Today, as 80 per cent of all Blue Helmets are deployed in Africa, the collaboration among the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union is particularly important, especially between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. All three are working on building on security cooperation mechanisms established since 2006, while developing more multidimensional and solid relationships than in the past. Kazakhstan encourages this positive progress towards greater common ground among the three entities through capacity-building for the AU in administrative, logistics and financial dimensions, and a greater convergence of political agendas. Hybrid and support missions, co-deployment and transitions all require their specific approaches in tandem with ensuring safety and security for all peacekeepers. The engagement of a larger number of African countries — through troop and financial contributions, following the principle of "non-indifference" — is a commendable trend that must be supported.

We would like to commend in that regard the activities of African subregional entities, including the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, among others. We believe that such subregional organizations complement the role of the African Union. The experience of economic integration in the different

parts of the world is of high interest for my country, as the founding member of the newly created Eurasian Economic Union.

The benefits of United Nations cooperation with the vast range of regional structures are well known. However, the crux of that cooperation lies in enhancing our mutual understanding of the root causes of local disputes and other security challenges and drawing on the insights of regional structures for their prevention and peaceful settlement. We have to seek ways of improving our early-warning system, effective prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and, most of all, recovery in the post-2015 developmental phase. Likewise, the United Nations and regional organizations can work towards more effective implementation of Security Council sanctions and resolutions.

To achieve effective collaboration, my delegation proposes expanding organizational dialogue and strengthening representation in the respective capitals. Equally critical are more distinct mandates for coordination and improved arrangements, joint planning, fact-finding and analysis, joint assessment missions, mutual organizational learning and harmonization of administrative borders, among others.

But let us be aware of other regions too. Central Asia is an example. Although it is a bridge between the East and West, it also has its geographic disadvantages. To ensure security in the entire Asian region, in 1992 Kazakhstan initiated the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), a unique security forum pan-continental in nature, to implement confidence-building measures and forge political dialogue and interaction to promote peace and stability in Asia. Today, CICA, which extends from Cairo to Seoul, unifies 26 countries from all the subregions of the continent, including Western, Northern, Central, Southern, Southeastern and Eastern Asia. Kazakhstan, as one of the founding members, hosts the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre on narcotic drugs, a body that exemplifies the region's cooperation with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. My country is also one of the founders and the major initiator of the Shanghai Corporation Organization's (SCO) regional counter-terrorism structure, which includes six member States.

In addition, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force — assisted by CICA, the SCO and others — adopted in 2011 a joint plan of action for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. That plan became the first model document, setting an example for implementing similar United Nations strategies in other regions of the world.

To date, Kazakhstan is a member, observer or partner of 15 regional organizations in various regions of the world, and my country is proud to hold observer status in two continental associations, namely, the African Union and the Organization of American States. We also signed a cooperation agreement with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Kazakhstan is committed to the implementation of the transformative post-2015 development agenda and has proposed, therefore, that the new United Nations regional hub, which my Government offers, should promote sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, disaster-risk reduction and building resilience. That is particularly crucial in the light of the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan and the growing disturbances witnessed within the region.

Kazakhstan has also been a pioneer in creating the Islamic Organization for Food Security, with its headquarters now established in Astana, our capital. My country was instrumental in fostering human rights protection while chairing and serving as the coordinating country of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other regional entities. Those initiatives resulted in a number of successful events under our leadership, such as the establishment of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission and the convening of the first CICA High-level Seminar on Sustainable Democratic Development.

Finally, given the far-reaching implications and effects of enhanced regional-global partnerships, Kazakhstan remains committed to achieving greater coherence, complementary synergy and dynamism between the United Nations and regional organizations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Ms. Kassangana-Jakubowska (Poland): Let me add my words of appreciation to you, Madam President, for selecting such an important topic for today's open debate and for your del gation's excellent and comprehensive concept note (S 2015/599, annex) on the

subject. This demonstrates once again your constant dedication to the issue before us today.

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union (EU). Given the detailed EU statement, I would like to share with the Security Council just a few additional thoughts from our national perspective.

We share the view, as presented in the concept note, that profound changes in the security environment and the many new challenges linked to it have led to the increased relevance and role of regional organizations. Cooperation at the regional level can very often be the most effective way of addressing many of today's challenges, such as irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling, internal conflicts, energy shortages or cybercrimes.

Regional organizations are often much better positioned and equipped to understand and react to the root causes of armed conflicts in their regions. Many recent examples have shown the importance of the involvement of regional organizations in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in mediation. The role of the African Union in the resolution of the Mali conflict, the positive engagement of the Economic Community of West African States in finding a peaceful solution to the political crisis in Burkina Faso, and the continued efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to bring to an end to the crisis situation in South Sudan are only a few examples of the involvement of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In that context, we see the need to develop closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in fields such as early warning, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Let me recall that establishing strategic and operational partnerships between the United Nations and such organizations was recognized in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. Also, two important reports published this year — by the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) and by the Advisory Group of Experts on the 2015 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture — have shown that the United Nations cannot succeed alone. We should now do our best to turn their recommendations into practice.

Europe has the longest and greatest experience in building collective security institutions at the regional level. This year we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, which laid the foundation for the establishment of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The Ukrainian crisis has presented one of the greatest challenges in the region in the field of security issues. During that crisis, the OSCE has showed a solid degree of efficiency and relevance and proved that it is still worth a substantial investment to make it even more effective. Poland would like to emphasize the special role of the OSCE in the process of de-escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. Unfortunately, not all parties members of the OSCE have adequately supported the efforts aimed at the success of the peace process. It is also important that the safety and security of OSCE personnel engaged in those activities be guaranteed by all parties involved, and supported by the Members of the United Nations, as is the case with peacekeeping operations.

We recognize that sustainable development is an important factor in addressing the root causes of conflicts and tensions. Poland is the current President of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. One of the priorities of our presidency is to develop a new agenda for sustainable development after 2015, which will pave the way for the regional implementation of the global sustainable development goals being elaborated in the framework of the United Nations.

Finally, let me conclude by emphasizing the importance of coordination and cooperation both between the United Nations and regional organizations, and among regional organizations themselves. I am convinced that only by acting together, with the United Nations at the centre of the multilateral system, and with effective regional organizations having properly developed capacities in the fields of early warning, mediation, conflict prevention and resolution, can we tackle the complex security challenges we are facing today.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Ms. Lodhi (Pakistan): On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank Nigeria for convening this important meeting of the Security Council. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and insightful briefing this morning.

We meet at a time of unprecedented and complex global and regional challenges. Large parts of the Middle East are in flames, afflicted by multiple inter- and intra-State conflicts, the spread of terrorism, external intervention and power struggles and massive human dislocation and suffering. Confrontation between the major Powers has returned to Europe and threatens to encompass Asia. Poverty stalks Africa and persists in South Asia. Global threats to peace and world order from diverse sources are also multiplying — climate change, poverty, unemployment, especially among youth, water scarcity, a record number of refugees and forced migrants, and gross violations of human rights.

Yet this is also a time of opportunity. Today, an interconnected and interdependent world possesses the financial, scientific and organizational capabilities to address those imposing and myriad challenges. What is needed is political will, especially among key global and regional Powers, to utilize those capabilities effectively and cooperatively, and to rise above their narrow interests and competing agendas.

Regional organizations can contribute to addressing many of those challenges, especially their economic and social dimensions. They can also promote the greater and closer political consultations that are essential to addressing the security dimensions of those challenges. In the realm of security, the role of regional organizations and mechanisms has been recognized as well as circumscribed in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Regional organizations and groupings can serve effectively to promote mediation, arbitration and other peaceful means of conflict resolution. But in this sphere the United Nations, and especially the Security Council, has absolute primacy. Any enforcement action and any use of coercive means to implement international decisions can be authorized only by the Security Council.

Each regional organization is unique and different in its historical origins, mandate, membership, evolution and capabilities. Some have proved their worth and made valuable contributions, among them the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Others, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), have much potential but have yet to fulfil their promise. SAARC has been constrained because of the deep differences among its members and efforts to utilize it for regional domination. Some regional organizations have great and untapped potential. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is one of them. That relatively newer grouping can advance the goals of economic development, stability and security across the broad swath of Euro-Asia.

Among those organizations, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is in a unique position. It includes 57 United Nations States Members — almost a third of the membership. It spans four continents. Its members are directly or indirectly involved in the numerous security challenges that bedevil the Middle East, Africa and beyond. Collectively and in cooperation with the United Nations, the OIC has the capabilities to address and overcome those challenges, including Palestine and other Middle East conflicts, as well as the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The OIC can also contribute to the promotion of global peace and prosperity. The United Nations should actively promote cooperation with the OIC in areas such as mediation and conciliation in disputes, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, humanitarian assistance, especially to refugees and displaced people, and in addressing the root causes of conflicts and extremism.

Cooperation between regional organizations can also be very useful. For instance, in the context of the current challenges in West Asia, cooperation and consultation could be most valuable between the SCO and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Equally, regular consultations between the Gulf Cooperation Council and key countries of West Asia can be timely, among other things, to deal with the shared threat from violent extremism and to devise common strategies on related issues.

Finally, the Pakistan delegation looks forward to the concrete follow-up that we hope will emerge from this important deliberation of the Security Council.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

Mrs. Nguyen (Viet Nam): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and my own country, Viet Nam.

We commend the initiative by the Nigerian presidency to hold this important open debate. In the year in which we celebrate the seventieth anniversary

of the United Nations, a year that will set new directions for the Organization in many areas of its work, it is indeed important to reflect on the challenges ahead and the critical role that regional organizations can play in addressing these challenges.

Our collective efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security are now faced with increasingly complex threats, in both the traditional and non-traditional sense. Conflicts are taking new forms with the rise of extremist groups in control of a large swath of territories. Intra-State conflicts are not winding down, while inter-Sate tensions remain a major source of concern. New non-traditional security issues also pose serious challenges to global security, as highlighted in recent debates of the Security Council. Comprehensive approaches, which should include a prominent role for regional organizations, are required so as to achieve tailored and sustainable solutions to such challenges.

In this connection, ASEAN member States are pleased with the efforts by the United Nations, including the Security Council, to engage with and promote the contribution of regional organizations. With the adoption of relevant resolutions, the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations and among regional organizations themselves is being strengthened, especially in conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We commend the efforts made by the Secretary-General and the Security Council in this regard.

ASEAN has strived to strengthen its own ability to address regional security challenges in accordance with its Charter. ASEAN has made significant progress in making an ASEAN community a reality, including the advancements made under the political-security pillar. ASEAN works closely with our dialogue partners in various ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, and leads efforts to build a regional architecture conducive to regional stability and prosperity. We are intensifying ongoing efforts by the State parties to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and the nuclear-weapon States to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty pertaining to the signing and ratifying of the Protocol to that Treaty. We are also working with partners to develop tools for conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes, including a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

ASEAN continues to attach great importance to our partnership with the United Nations. ASEAN and the United Nations have been partners in addressing issues of common interest and concern within the region and beyond. The ASEAN-United Nations Comprehensive Partnership continues to be advanced with the implementation of the work plan of 2015. ASEAN member States have deepened their engagement with various United Nations efforts, including United Nations peacekeeping operations. Cooperation between the two secretariats has been regularized through a number of consultations, workshops and dialogues. ASEAN welcomes the appointment of a United Nations liaison officer to the ASEAN secretariat.

Moving forward, ASEAN believes that regional organizations can do more to address new security challenges.

First, ASEAN's own experience has shown that the ASEAN way of consensus-building, sustained engagement, respect for the views of all parties concerned and the fundamental principles of international law, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and the peaceful settlement of disputes, is the best way to address common challenges. As the Chair of ASEAN put it at the forty-eighth ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN history is built upon the twin pillars of dialogue and diplomacy.

Secondly, it might be necessary to adequately reflect on the role of regional organizations in the ongoing reviews of United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding architecture and other important exercises. The forthcoming reports of the Secretary-General on this important work could provide assessments and, most importantly, recommendations on how to further promote the engagement of regional organizations.

Thirdly, ASEAN is supportive of enhancing consultations and dialogue among regional organizations with the United Nations to share best practices, expertise and resources, so that we can fully utilize our collective capacity to meet new, complex challenges. In particular, regional organizations have the comparative advantages of geographical proximity and a better understanding of the context of the problems. ASEAN looks forward to closer engagement with the United Nations and with other regional organizations,

including during the upcoming high-level week of the General Assembly.

Fourthly, no two regional organizations are the same. Each has its unique characteristics, objectives and functions. In working to address any international security challenge, the partnership between the United Nations and a regional organization must build upon an accurate understanding of each other's nature and strengths as well as limitations.

I would like to conclude by underscoring that the partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations has been beneficial to regional peace and stability. We look forward to continued United Nations support for ASEAN centrality in our regional security architecture. ASEAN reiterates its commitment to contributing to the work of the United Nations and stands ready to work closely with the United Nations and other partners in our joint efforts to address the new challenges of the day.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Anshor (Indonesia): Indonesia congratulates Nigeria on its presidency for the month of August and expresses its appreciation to you, Madam President, for having convened this open debate.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing. Indonesia aligns itself with the statements made earlier by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Viet Nam on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, respectively.

There is no denying that the role of regional and subregional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security currently reflects significant progress. Their growing contribution and particularly their cooperation with the United Nations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, is commendable. As a consistent and robust supporter of regional organizations, Indonesia is pleased that today's theme has been discussed on a regular basis by the Council.

My delegation has always underlined the value of the capacities of regional and subregional entities to foster peace and security through strong and regionally owned frameworks for conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Indonesia, during its presidency of the Council in November 2007, organized a debate with a similar topic to focus on existing and potential capacities of regional organizations and to identify and develop modalities by which to enhance cooperation between these organizations and the United Nations, including the Security Council. The presidential statement adopted on that occasion (S/PRST/2007/42) stressed, among other things, developing an effective partnership between the Council and regional and subregional organizations, so as to enable an early response to disputes and emerging crises.

The more complex, multidimensional and interlinked threats posed by contemporary challenges to global security, as also rightly mentioned in the concept note (S/2015/599, annex), demand a creative approach from regional and subregional actors, an approach that puts greater primacy on cooperation and synergy and that can incorporate the holistic nature of threats while dealing with the unique factors present in each situation. Such an approach is undoubtedly a challenge for the United Nations, which needs to sharpen its response in dynamic situations and must actualize it in such a way that regional and subregional views are appropriately reflected and the intergovernmental system can fully own those United Nations responses.

Regional organizations are uniquely positioned to advise and contribute to peacemaking and peacebuilding, because they often share bonds of history and fraternity that give them insights into how to resolve local conflicts. In that regard, Indonesia emphasizes the significance of enhanced consultation, trust, cooperation and collaboration for optimizing the comparative advantages of the United Nations and regional actors. Within South-East Asia, it has been our policy to maintain peace and stability together with other ASEAN member States by strengthening our capacities and upholding shared norms aimed at consolidating peace and at actively preventing and resolving conflicts. The dividends have been many. Today South-East Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Peace and stability in South-East Asia have been critical not only for global trade but also for larger global peace and security. It is important for Indonesia that ASEAN continues to become a net contributor to peace, development and prosperity. To that end, in 2011, under Indonesia's chairpersonship, ASEAN adopted the Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations, which

serves as a common ASEAN platform for addressing key global issues of shared interest in multilateral forums, including the United Nations.

Outside South-East Asia, we have also worked hard to promote a new regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific region, one capable of yielding greater and more durable peace and in which the relations among the major Powers can remain peaceful and cooperative. We hope that it will help emerging Powers to find their proper place without triggering mistrust. Furthermore, Indonesia is one of the countries that has been actively supporting and developing a framework of cross-regional consultations and cooperation linking and coordinating various regional and subregional organizations, such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Asia-Europe Meeting and the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation, so that they can confront common global challenges. In April we initiated and hosted the 2015 summit of the Asian-African Conference, aimed at strengthening partnerships among Asian and African nations, while also emphasizing synergies among various regional and subregional organizations on the two continents.

Our shared global challenges will be best tackled when we all act responsibly and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and when we enable and support regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to fully perform their roles. While the various regional and subregional actors are certainly at different levels of development, each possesses particular strengths and has great potential to contribute to the work of the Council. We are positive that, through discussions such as today's and by ensuring that tangible follow-up steps are taken, the strengths of the various regional actors can be harnessed more effectively for the common good. Indonesia, for its part, is fully committed to continuing to contribute to that end.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Mminele (South Africa): I would like to begin by joining previous speakers, Madam President, in congratulating you and your delegation on your assumption of your important role, and in wishing you success in steering the work of the Security Council during your presidency. South Africa commends you for giving special attention to this important topic during your presidency, and we welcome today's debate, which will, we hope, help to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations recognizes that cooperation with regional and subregional bodies can improve collective security. For its part, the African Union (AU) has established, as part of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the African Union Peace and Security Council, which is, among other things, a standing decision-making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the African continent. Despite the challenges faced by the African Union and its subregional organizations, such as a lack of predictable sources of funding, they remain a reservoir of critical knowledge about the nature of conflicts on the continent. They have a distinct comparative advantage in addressing conflicts in often complex environments and are usually able to deploy troops to areas of conflict without delay. Regional and subregional organizations also have the distinct advantage of being able to respond rapidly to conflicts that arise, as evidenced by the various African-led international support missions, such as those in Mali and the Central African Republic. Such rapid response missions have acted as bridges to the more sustainable United Nations peacekeeping missions.

In 2012 South Africa piloted the adoption of resolution 2033 (2012), which built on resolution 1809 (2008), adopted during the April 2008 South African presidency of the Security Council. The two resolutions encourage the strengthening of regular interaction, consultation and coordination between the two bodies on matters of mutual interest. Moreover, their strategic thrust is aimed at promoting political and legislative coherence between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council in dealing with African peace and security challenges.

Since that time we have seen the benefits of the collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union and its subregional organizations. At the operational level, the United Nations Secretariat has been active in supporting the AU's Peace and Security Architecture through the implementation of a 10-year capacity-building programme. Both organizations also benefit from the deployment of joint technical assessment missions. Further examples of such cooperation are the hybrid model of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the assistance provided to

the African Union Mission in Somalia and, recently, the robust mandate developed for the Intervention Brigade of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Such collaborative efforts, benefitting from the experience of the more robust mandates espoused by regional and subregional bodies, illustrate the importance of closer collaboration between the United Nations and Chapter VIII bodies.

We must also be aware that the principles of national ownership and the sovereignty of States, which should be respected if we are to create lasting peace, are central to the sustainability of peace initiatives. Steps, however minimal, taken by those directly affected by a conflict, including regional and subregional organizations, should be taken into consideration and, where possible, built upon. South Africa believes that, given the scarcity of financial and human capital, a clear division of labour and productive burden-sharing between the United Nations and regional organizations is critical to sustainable conflict resolution and prevention efforts. We also believe that regional organizations could benefit from flexible and predictable financial support from the United Nations and other international institutions and stakeholders.

In conclusion, in South Africa we believe that cooperation between the United Nations and the region and its subregions can further enhance capacity so as to ensure complementarity and minimize the duplication of efforts. Ultimately, however, we must draw on the strengths of each organization and be prepared to adopt more flexible and sometimes more robust approaches to addressing conflicts in a more effective manner. The United Nations needs to adjust to an environment that requires a more nuanced approach rather than rigid procedures that have proved ineffective.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

Mr. Ceriani (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to thank and congratulate Nigeria on its conduct of the presidency of the Security Council for August, and also for its timely choice of subject for today's open debate, which enables the Council and the international community to advance the Organization's essential task of maintaining international peace and security.

As the concept note (S/2015/599, annex) circulated for today's debate clearly highlights, the international environment has been undergoing profound and rapid changes that challenge the Organization and the international community and make it necessary to act in a coordinated and effective way to tackle those changes. In that regard, the nature of the new global security challenges cannot be addressed in the same way that they were even a decade ago. Increasing threats and their transnational character, such as pandemics, organized crime and various forms of terrorism, require States to act together, because individually they do not have the ability to control those threats. Therefore, the role they play in regional and subregional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations can be a key element in the fight against such global threats. Uruguay, as a member of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), finds in that organization a framework for regional cooperation that seeks to collectively confront the challenges of our region.

Today we are witnessing multiple conflicts that have progressively deteriorated and cause growing concern that the world is far from seeing the purposes and principles essential for peaceful coexistence, development and cooperation among peoples and nations fulfilled. To be able to enforce those purposes and principles and ensure the maintenance of international peace and security, regional organizations should work from the outset to include conflict prevention and resolution and to generate other initiatives that contribute to safeguarding regional peace and security. They must work in an ongoing and tireless way, while being creative and resourceful in response to such global challenges, and they must support conditions that ensure political stability and democratic governance in their regions and institutions so as to ensure the rule of law, the promotion and protection of human rights and the defence of the territorial integrity of States and their right to inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development.

In that task, UNASUR has, for example, been able to develop a strategy that has managed to solve problems, using good offices and mediation in situations of tension between its members, even in the internal crises of some of them. That has been possible because the work has been based on the view that democracy serves as a beacon to guide actions for adoption whenever a threat had emerged.

Moreover, the main security body accountable to UNASUR is the South American Defence Council,

established at the end of 2008 and the main objective of which is to serve as an active forum for political dialogue with the aim of defusing potential conflicts in the region. The South American Defence Council does not seek to create a South American armed force, nor does it wish to develop a joint operative capability or a common defence policy. Rather, it seeks to achieve the consolidation of the South as a zone of peace capable of shaping a South American identity with regard to defence and of generating consensus to strengthen regional cooperation on such issues. Today we can say with satisfaction that Latin America and the Caribbean is a zone in which there are no serious conflicts between States that threaten international peace and security.

In line with that fact, and continuing with the example of UNASUR, we note that the work of the organization, of which we are a part, is based on lessons learned in the region at different times of tension. We believe, without wishing to export models, that they can also be applied in those areas where the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter are today being violated. The need to adapt to new problem situations and the challenges they present can be the basis for providing a new dimension to regional organizations on cooperation in matters of peace and security. Similarly, coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should be addressed so as to ensure the validity of the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the Organization.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, and the Government of Nigeria on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August and for convening today's important debate. As we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, we also pay tribute to the visionaries to whom we owe much gratitude for formulating the Charter of the United Nations with such wisdom and foresight.

I join others in praising the insights enshrined in Chapter VIII of the Charter, which foresaw the need for the United Nations to establish deeper cooperation with regional organizations. Seventy years later, we are witnessing a trend whereby regional and subregional organizations are becoming more prominent features in the global peace and security landscape. Today the international community faces a vastly different set of security challenges and threats. In coping with them, regional organizations play an increasingly important role.

We have seen the instrumental role of regional organizations, especially in the crucial stage of early response, in situations in Somalia, Mali, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Burundi. Furthermore, the successful response of the African Union in countering the Ebola epidemic in West Africa highlights the convening power, political leverage and outreach of a regional organization. In recognition of the role that can be played by regional and subregional organizations, the Republic of Korea was one of the sponsors of resolution 2167 (2014). We appreciate the report by the High-level Independent Panel in Peace Operations (see S/2015/446), which calls for closer cooperation with regional organizations in addressing present and future conflicts. As a member of the Peacebuilding Commission's Organizational Committee, the Republic of Korea will seek ways to further develop close consultations with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements.

Coming from a region where the role of regional organizations is not as prominent as in Africa or Europe, the Republic of Korea is nonetheless actively engaged in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) processes, including ASEAN+3, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asian Summit. Last December, we hosted the Commemorative Summit on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea dialogue relations. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea has promoted the Northeast Asia peace and Cooperation Initiative. Inspired by the experiences of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in making Europe whole and free in the aftermath of the Cold War, the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative seeks to build a consensus on softer, yet critical, issues such as climate change, the environment, disaster relief and nuclear safety. We hope gradually to strengthen cooperation among regional players with a view to eventually addressing the region's more difficult issues.

Today, as we speak of how best to implement regional cooperation, we need to be as imaginative as the Founding Fathers of the United Nations so that we can effectively address threats to peace and security of all kinds around the world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Panama.

Ms. Franceschi Navarro (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, let me thank the presidency of the Security Council, in the person of the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria, for convening this debate on the nature of current challenges to global security and the role that regional organizations and subregional organizations can play in the maintenance of international peace and security. This debate could not be more relevant. The global economy is more interconnected than ever, making global security a particularly relevant issue. What is therefore required is a certain minimum of security, stability and predictability at the global level so as to ensure that the flow and interconnectedness of the economy can guarantee well-being and prosperity for all.

In that context, regional conflicts or tensions resulting from interreligious or intercultural disputes, or drug trafficking, loss of lives as a result of terrorism and infectious diseases such as Ebola, and natural disasters, among others, affect the supranational flow of goods, services, people and capital that characterizes the global economy of our times. Allow me to share just two figures that reflect that impressive flow and interconnection. In 2005, the number of migrants, globally, was estimated at 191 million people. In terms of capital flow, global remittances were estimated at $406 billion in 2012.

In that context, the maintenance of international peace and security are key factors and prerequisites for the progress and prosperity of humankind. As Tavares has said, peace seeks to manage violence, while security seeks to manage threats. Therefore, the post-2015 development agenda, "Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development", which will be adopted in September, envisions that its goals and targets will lead to a world free of poverty, hunger, disease, free from fear and violence, where all people can realize their potential. In particular, the target of goal 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, is to substantially reduce illicit flows of weapons, promote the return of seized assets and combat all forms of organized crime, inter alia, by 2030.

We therefore reaffirm that peace and security will be strengthened to the extent that there is inclusive development to support the health of our ecosystems and promote equality and respect for all human rights, democracy, human development, gender equality and the participation of women. Facing that challenge requires a commitment to conflict prevention, constructive dialogue, cooperation and collaboration, mutual respect and education as the primary tools for guaranteeing the international peace and security that we all desire.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, as has been mentioned by several speakers, notes that Member States shall make every effort to peacefully settle local disputes through agreements or regional agencies or arrangements. To that end, regional agencies and organizations can play an important role in prevention and early warning of situations that undermine global peace and security in different parts of the world.

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, we highlight the role played by regional entities in the struggle for security and peace among neighbours. It is important to clarify that in this region, sustainable economic and political progress is threatened not by the existence of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons, but by inequality, the unmet needs of people, insecurity and the presence of organized criminal networks that are strengthened by drug trafficking networks in the region. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 36 per cent of homicides globally occur in the Americas.

We note, for example, that the Organization of American States, the longest lasting regional entity, consisting of 35 States members, is a robust advocate of democracy, strengthening electoral systems and modernization of the State. With respect to crisis management, it promotes dialogue among the parties. We also stress the role of the States members of the Caribbean Community in decisively supporting United Nations efforts to stabilize Haiti, the only country in the Americas with a United Nations peacekeeping operation. We further note the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which was created in 2011, has 35 member States, and represents a new political dialogue and integration mechanism, with the primary objective of integration and peace. We also point to the Union of South American Nations, which is composed of 12 South American States, whose South American Defense Council is an innovative space for coordination and cooperation among South American countries in the field of peace and security.

Overall, we believe that there is no single model for relations between the United Nations and regional organizations in promoting peace and peacebuilding. Some regional institutions focus primarily on cooperation for security, yet not necessarily on peace. They should take into account the experiences of each region and the various decision-making processes, which point to the need to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations within the purview of each regional organization.

It is important to build capacity in those organizations and to strengthen both their conflict prevention mandates and their capacity to implement solutions within the aforementioned principles of non-intervention and national sovereignty. They must have the tools, funding and expertise to implement their mandate. Above all, they should strengthen their legitimacy and credibility in the region.

The Security Council enjoys pre-eminence in the maintenance of international peace and security, and a mandate to consider measures and promote closer, more effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention. The daily reality of emerging conflicts and the demands facing multilateral organizations are in constant flux. Threats to international peace and security have changed in form and substance from those that led to the establishment of the Security Council in 1946, when the first meeting was held.

That is why we consider it timely to resume the discussion on the reform of the Security Council, and to integrate a broader representation of nations to enrich our understanding of the threats to international peace and security. I reiterate that the cost of not doing so is too high for the sustainability, legitimacy and effectiveness of the multilateral system. Panama, like other Member States, has created a proposal to gradually achieve, in two successive stages, coinciding with the centenary of the United Nations, a Security Council of 25 members. In that Council, all members would be equal and elected for three years, with the possibility of consecutive re-election.

Finally, we need to work together to halt the spiral of insecurity that is buffeting the world. Highlighting the interests of all of our societies will ensure our ability to build a future of peace and security for all.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Laassel (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): At the outset I wish to thank Nigeria for its initiative in organizing a public debate on the relevant topic of regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security.

Currently the international community faces an unimaginable number of challenges to international peace and security through an unprecedented exacerbation of terrorism, intra-State conflicts and threats to peace posed by climate change, pandemics and poverty. Terrorist groups, including Daesh, Boko Haram, Al-Qaida and their affiliates, control vast territories. Meeting those challenges requires the united efforts and cooperation on all sides, which highlights the relevance of the topic of today's debate.

The authors of the Charter of San Francisco assigned the primary role for the maintenance of international peace and security on the United Nations, but they also called for cooperation between the Organization and regional and subregional organizations. The strengthening of partnerships to meet global challenges to peace and security, in particular the peaceful dispute settlement and the resolution of multiform crises that threaten to destabilize entire regions and affect millions of people, complements the efforts made in recent years by regional and subregional organizations, provided that the measures taken by these organizations are consistent with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter. That means that all action undertaken must respect the provisions set forth in resolutions and be consistent with the mandates of the Security Council, and that the Council should be fully informed of activities undertaken or planned by these agreements or regional entities in maintaining international peace and security.

The Kingdom of Morocco sets great store by bolstering multilateralism and the expansion and enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional institutions in line with the Charter and pursuant to the parameters established by Security Council resolutions. Morocco therefore confirms the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations regarding the peaceful dispute settlement as set out in Chapter VI, and firmly supports the ongoing role played by the United Nations as the universal Organization responsible for resolving

and ruling on issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of human rights and sustainable development.

Similarly, Morocco reiterates its commitment to multilateralism that respects the rules and principles of international law within the framework of the United Nations with a view to creating an international society that is based on equality and legality, enjoys peace and security, and respects human rights and sustainable development. Those goals must be achieved through the adoption of a comprehensive multidimensional approach based on the rule of law in all aspects of international relations, especially through respect for the United Nations Charter, the peaceful dispute settlement, respect for the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of States, and non-interference in their internal affairs.

While the main role falls with the United Nations in this field, close cooperation based on effective communication and coordination between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations can be a major asset in our collective efforts to maintain international peace and security. Over the years and with the experience that they have gained, the subregional organizations have demonstrated their ability to make a key contribution to international peace and security with their enhanced knowledge of the sensibilities of their subregion and social cultural aspects that can add value to the peaceful conflict settlement. Regional and subregional organizations have profound knowledge, original ideas and solid local networks in place. These elements are essential to mediation and planning for peacekeeping operations and to helping countries to establish lasting peace.

Some of these organizations even have a proven capacity for rapid reaction to crises by drawing on a whole set of instruments in the short or long term in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance, security or politics. In Africa, which faces serious security, humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges, subregional organizations are best placed in terms of geographic proximity, political and cultural knowledge of local situations, and common experience in order to act most effectively for peace and security.

To that end, we welcome the scale and diversity that are increasingly a hallmark of the role played by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in its subregion. In addition to its contribution to maintaining the stability and unity of countries in the region, as was the case in Mali and Burkina Faso, or through the deployment of troops or the election of observers, as in Nigeria and Togo, ECOWAS continues to expand the scope of its interventions to cover areas as varied as they are complex, as reflected by its contribution to the recent successes made in the struggle against the terror group Boko Haram, or its participation in eradicating the Ebola virus in Liberia and the disease's overall regression in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Other subregional organizations stand out for their capacities to mobilize to combat the destabilizing effects of terrorism and the degradation of the humanitarian situation in their respective subregions. That is the case with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, which seeks to operationalize as soon as possible the Multinational Joint Task Force to take on the Boko Haram terrorist group, which continues to rage in the subregion. In the Central African Republic, the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States to ensure a peaceful political transition through its support for the holding of credible and transparent legislative and presidential elections have been admirable.

At this point, we note that while subregional African organizations have worked actively to settle conflicts in Africa, they face huge obstacles, such as the absence of lasting and flexible financial support, as well as a lack of military expertise and equipment and appropriate civilian competence.

Finally, despite the growing proliferation of threats and challenges to international peace and security, which could justify closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations with a view to improving the international collective security system, the central role of the Security Council in matters of international peace and security remains unchanged, as defined in the United Nations Charter.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): I should like to thank you, Madam President, for presiding over this open debate. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

Coordinating the aims and activities of regional and international actors reinforces multilateralism and increases the prospects for sustainable peace. It can play

a decisive role in preserving stability and preventing the escalation of crises. Indeed the potential for regional arrangements to confront challenges to global security should not be restricted to or mainly focused on peacekeeping. Article 52 of the Charter emphasizes the crucial role that regional arrangements play in the pacific settlement of local disputes. Initiatives in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict peacebuilding, as well as measures to foster sustainable and inclusive patterns of development are also vital to achieve durable peace.

Regional and subregional organizations have achieved different levels of institutional development. While some of these institutions have comprehensive mandates, which include developing and implementing their own security and defence policies, others are much more limited in scope and ambition. Today's debate should reflect this institutional diversity. It is important that the United Nations be attentive to and respectful of the specificities of each regional arrangement, avoiding the simple replication of practices.

In the Americas, the purpose of the Organization of American States is to guarantee continental peace and security. That is to be fulfilled through peaceful processes. In extreme cases, this could lead to the suspension of a member State whose Government has been overthrown by force. This means resorting to political pressure but not to arms. In South America, the Union of South American Nations has built an institutional architecture to contribute to the promotion of stability in the region. The South American Defence Council has established an innovative mechanism for coordination and cooperation among South American countries in matters of peace and security. In parallel, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States has proclaimed Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace and recommitted to promoting nuclear disarmament and the proscription of weapons of mass destruction globally.

Brazil recognizes, in line with the report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (S/2015/446) that African regional and subregional organizations are main players in combating security challenges in their respective jurisdictions. We praise the stabilization efforts by the African Union with the support of subregional organizations in Somali, the Central African Republic, and West Africa. We also commend the constructive role played by the East African Community and the African Union in mediating Burundi's electoral crisis.

While welcoming a more active engagement of regional organizations in Africa or elsewhere, Brazil reiterates that the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security should be strengthened, not hindered, by the action of those organizations. The Council's authority should not be outsourced to or superseded by these entities. The tenets of Chapter VIII of the Charter are of paramount importance in this regard.

Brazil also believes that contemporary challenges to global security will be better tackled if regional and subregional organizations are more involved in and focused on issues in their respective areas of jurisdiction. Moreover, financial constraints should not drive policy. We disagree with the tacit reasoning that regional entities should be more engaged in facing contemporary security challenges as a means of achieving budget savings for the United Nations.

Finally, let us not forget that regional involvement is not a panacea. There will be cases in which differences regarding a certain situation will exist within the region. Overframing a certain challenge as a regional question may further aggravate the situation. The results of the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to tackle contemporary security challenges will be elusive if unaccompanied by real political will at the global level to face those challenges. No administrative arrangement between global and local institutions can replace political consensus building. Brazil reiterates its readiness to contribute to the task of forging convergence among different entities and promoting an enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations.

Last but not least, Brazil is convinced of the urgent need for a reform of the Security Council that includes new permanent and non-permanent seats. Such reform would render the Council more representative and would truly enhance the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in matters of international peace and security.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Çevik (Turkey): Turkey has aligned itself with the statement delivered today by the observer of the European Union. I now wish to make a statement in my

own capacity, and I should like to thank the Nigerian presidency for organizing this timely debate. In our view, the role of regional organizations in meeting the contemporary challenges of global security is crucial and needs to be further highlighted.

Today, threats characterized by their transnational nature — such as terrorism, organized crime, sectarianism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, climate change, poverty, and the uncontrolled and involuntary mass movement of people — are constantly evolving. Thus, peace and security can no longer be achieved solely through military means, since some of these challenges are not necessarily of a military nature. We need to employ a broader combination of policies to confront contemporary challenges. We believe that regional organizations have a significant contribution to make in this regard.

As stated in the excellent concept note (S/2015/599, annex) prepared by your presidency, Madam President, regional organizations are increasingly focusing on contemporary challenges that have a direct impact on regional and global security. Aware of this fact, Turkey has been promoting and actively taking part in the activities of regional organizations in its region such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, NATO, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Black Sea Economic Organization, the Organization of Economic Cooperation, the Council of Europe, the D-8 and the Turkic Council.

In line with our objective of contributing to stability, security and prosperity beyond our neighbourhood, we have also strengthened our relations with regional organizations throughout the world, in Africa, Asia and Latin America alongside the enhancement of our bilateral relations with countries in these regions. In Africa, Turkey as a strategic partner of the continent since 2008 actively supports various United Nations and African Union peace operations by providing funds and personnel. We also contribute to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and the Commission's work.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) contributes greatly to democracy, peace and stability in West Africa through its efforts in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso and other countries. We support the peacekeeping activities of ECOWAS and other regional actors in Africa. In this regard, we have provided grants to the African-led International Support Mission in Mali Trust Fund and the Mali Peace and Security Fund. We have also made a donation to the projects developed by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect in Africa for the Central African Republic, ECOWAS and the African Union.

In East Africa, we follow closely the integration process in the East African Community (EAC). We believe that full integration of the member countries of EAC will boost the development in the region and unfold new potentials. We consider the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to be a key factor in attaining peace, stability and sustainable economic development in the region.

In Asia, establishing more institutional ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which we view as the key regional organization, is our priority. We also enhanced our relations with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation as a dialogue partner. In Latin America, in addition to the Organization of American States, the Association of Caribbean States, the Central American Integration System and the Pacific Alliance, in which Turkey has observer status, we have institutional relations with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and the Common Market of the South.

As regional organizations are more and more active in the international scene, the enhancement of cooperation among the regional organizations and coordination between regional organizations and the United Nations are crucial in order to create synergies and to achieve better results, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter. We are glad to observe the positive developments in recent years concerning the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union to find solutions to several conflicts in Africa. Turkey, whether through bilateral, regional or international channels, will do its utmost to contribute to peace and security in its region and beyond.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Mr. Imnadze (Georgia): I thank Nigeria for organizing this event and bringing this very important issue to the attention of the Council. I also want to thank the Secretary-General for his insightful remarks earlier

today. Georgia aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union, and in my national capacity I should like to add the following.

Throughout the years we have witnessed fruitful cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. At the same time, we remain mindful of the serious challenges in designing a comprehensive peace and security architecture that would rapidly respond to security threats in different corners of the world, including the region I come from. The global and European security environment has changed exponentially in recent years. The conflicts, threats and instability in many regions across the globe, together with old and newly emerging security challenges — affecting, among others, Iraq, Libya, the Sahel region, Syria and my immediate neighbourhood — are significantly impacting international peace and security and challenging our fundamental values and principles.

We fully acknowledge the growing asymmetric threats posed by transnational terrorism and its new forms, such as foreign terrorist fighters, to the viability and efficiency of regional and international organizations. And we believe that the entire international community at all levels must stand and act unitedly to effectively counter them. In the meantime, the more traditional threats posed by expansionist and irredentist State actors remain at the core of regional and international instability and insecurity.

Taking into account the universal nature of the fundamental principles upon which the European security architecture rests, we are confident that the main problem is rather related to the unwillingness of some States to comply with commitments undertaken within the regional organizations than with the imperfection of the system itself. The disregard for obligations is a major challenge to our common security and has resulted in the crisis that we are facing today in the region.

Unfortunately for all of us, regional security in Europe is being significantly challenged by Russia's aggressive behaviour against its neighbours — especially Georgia and Ukraine — in particular through the ongoing illegal military occupation of integral parts of our sovereign territories. This worrisome pattern to alter international borders arbitrarily and by force poses a deadly threat not only to the strategic vision of a Europe whole, free and at peace, but also to the notion of amicable relations between all peoples in our region.

It should be noted that the first signs of erosion of the modern European security system emerged quite long ago. A lack of willingness to fulfil the commitments in good faith undertaken during the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Istanbul Summit in 1999 must be considered as one of the clear signs of the beginning of this erosion process.

Regrettably, OSCE participating States failed to demonstrate enough resolve and unity adequately to respond to this dangerous tendency at an early stage. The imposition of an illegal moratorium on the implementation of the obligations arising from the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe in 2007 was the next perilous step towards the deepening of the security crisis. The full-scale aggression committed against Georgia in 2008 and the consequent ethnic cleansing, occupation of 20 per cent of my country's territory and ongoing steps towards its annexation by one of the founding Members of the United Nations were a logical continuation of this process.

Allow me to express my profound disappointment that, as a result of Russia's opposition, we have lacked opportunities to restore a meaningful and comprehensive OSCE mission in Georgia, which would serve as an impartial monitor of the existing situation in Georgia's occupied regions. This issue is of particular concern given the absence of international monitoring mechanisms on the ground, a rueful consequence of the terminations not just of the OSCE mission but also of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia in 2009 by exercising the power of veto of a permanent member.

Unfortunately, inadequate assessment by the international community of the above-mentioned erosion of the security architecture, and hence the inadequate response to the tragic events that unfolded in Georgia, led to another grave violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a United Nations Member State, this time Ukraine in 2014, resulting in the annexation of new territories and the creation of grey zones in the OSCE area. We believe that close cooperation between the United Nations and the OSCE and other regional organizations and full exploitation of their potential in early warning and prevention as well as crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

is indispensable for the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should also like to stress the particular importance we attach to the partnerships between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM. There is no need to remind those participating in this debate that all GUAM member States — Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova — have grave security challenges arising from conflicts, including occupied and annexed territories. Therefore, the United Nations engagement is crucial to preserving stability in this region with a population of more than 60 million. To this end, we once again welcome the recent consensual adoption by the General Assembly of the second resolution on cooperation between the United Nations and GUAM (resolution 69/271) and look forward to strengthening the partnership between these organizations.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Kuwait.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in my capacity as the Chair of the OIC group.

At the outset allow me to express to the delegation of Nigeria, a fellow State member of the OIC, both congratulations on presiding over the Security Council and gratitude for holding an open debate on such a timely and important topic as the role of regional organizations in meeting the evolving challenges of global security. I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing.

In my statement, I will focus on the challenges arising from the continuously evolving threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism, and highlight the critical role played by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation towards countering it.

As our world has become more interconnected and interdependent, so too have the challenges we face, requiring us to enhance our collective efforts to tackle these global threats. Having said that, it is not enough for these security challenges to be tackled at the country-to-country level; more importantly, they must be addressed throught the coordination and cooperation of regional and subregional organizations in a concerted effort to ensure the collective peace and security of our peoples. The Security Council is to encourage the aforementioned, as clearly stipulated in Article 52 of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Terrorism and violent extremism remain two of the most serious threats to every society, as well as to international peace and security as a whole. Regardless of its ethno-religious identity, geographical location, socioeconomic conditions or political stance on the world stage, every nation is more or less susceptible to the growing threat of terrorism. Therefore, never before in history has a comprehensive and concerted response to terrorism been needed as much as it is today. However, there seems to be fundamental differences within the international community on how to handle the issue of terrorism.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is committed to fighting terrorism and countering violent extremism. To that end, the OIC works to delegitimize violent extremist ideology, develop counter narratives to such extremist ideologies and propaganda, provide appropriate pathways to vulnerable groups — especially youth and women — elevate credible and authentic religious voices that support tolerance and non-violence, counter the use of cyberspace, including social media, by extremist groups.

As part of its ongoing efforts, the OIC Ministerial Executive Committee held an emergency session on 15 February to review and invigorate its actions against terrorism and violent extremism. Similarly, on 5 May the General Secretariat organized an expert level workshop on countering threats of terrorism and extremism in cyberspace implementing one of its deliverables.

Moreover, on 27 May in Kuwait, the forty-second session of the Council of OIC Foreign Ministers had a special brainstorming session on developing an effective strategy to combat terrorism, violent extremism and Islamophobia, thereby strengthening the OIC's commitment to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. The OIC member States will deliberate on and consider a proposal for establishing an OIC fund to combat terrorism. Additionally, the OIC General Secretariat will organize an intergovernmental expert group meeting to finalize the strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism in cyberspace.

The United Nations and the OIC continue to work together in order to counter incitement to terrorism and violent extremism. In this regard, within the framework of the ongoing United Nations-OIC cooperation, the OIC

held a workshop in Jeddah in May 2013 on countering incitement to terrorism and enhancing cultural dialogue pursuant to Security Council resolution 1624 (2005). Similarly, after the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, the OIC looks forward, again in close consultation with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, to holding a meeting of OIC member States on national practices in countering incitement to terrorism and violent extremism pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014).

The OIC remains an important partner of the United Nations in peace, security and fostering a culture of peace at the global level. The OIC stands ready to make meaningful contributions to the aforementioned initiatives, and reiterates its cooperation to working with the United Nations in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, the promotion of good governance at national and international levels, combating international terrorism, fighting extremism, countering religious intolerance, including Islamophobia, promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, humanitarian assistance and capacity building.

Regional organizations have a greater role to prevent, manage and resolve crises and to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. It is imperative and incumbent upon us — States and regional organizations — to work more closely, more collectively, in order to contribute to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The President: I give the floor to the representative of Botswana.

Mr. Nkoloi (Botswana): Let me at the very outset congratulate the delegation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on its assumption of the presidency of this Council for this month. We pledge our full support to you, Madam President, as you lead the activities of this Council.

This debate on regional organizations and contemporary global security challenges is indeed timely and pertinent, particularly at this historic moment in the calendar of the United Nations. We therefore appreciate your initiative, Madam President, in convening this important debate.

Botswana reaffirms its commitment to peace and security issues, as well as to human rights. Seventy years after the founding of the United Nations, when the founders pledged to settle disputes through peaceful means, the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, remains the only hope for humankind to live in peace.

The world community continues to face unprecedented levels of threats to international peace and security, and at a frightening pace. Above and beyond those, there is the proliferation of armed conflic. radical extremism and racial and religious intolerance, which have taken root in most regions of the world. No single country is immune from those threats, and no single country can counter them alone. The threats come in different forms and manifestat themselves in many ways. One thing is clear: they are deadly, sudden and they leave ruin and destruction in their wake for families, communities and nations, big and small.

The growth and continued existence of the Islamic State, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and many other brutal terrorist groups continue to pose serious threats to global security. They kill, maim and unleash brutal terror on innocent people with impunity. Apart from those global terrorist networks, there are those who engage in drug trafficking, trafficking in wildlife and wildlife products, money laundering and the illicit trafficking and trade in arms and light weapons. In essence, they destabilize regional governance structures and inflict a sense of insecurity in our communities. The continued violations of human rights perpetrated against vulnerable populations, especially women and children, with millions displaced, calls for regional bodies to work together to stem the rising tide of terror.

In addition, climate change continues to unleash havoc on our planet — triggering humanitarian crises, robbing populations of their natural capital and compromising food security. As a result, millions of people face hunger as a result of drought, starvation and diseases such as Ebola and malaria.

The United Nations — in particular the Security Council as the custodian of international peace and security — must continue to display exemplary leadership in addressing threats to peace and security. It is therefore imperative for the international community to work in unison and make concerted efforts to address those challenges. To that end, we call on influential members of the Council to refrain from the use of the veto, especially where genocide and atrocities are

concerned. Any attempt to frustrate the ends of justice by those members constitutes an insult, especially to victims.

Threats posed by armed conflicts require that the United Nations and regional organizations work together in a complementary manner to bring justice to people. In taking the lead, regional organizations can help, as they possess valuable advantages, such as a clearer understanding and knowledge of regional dynamics, cultures, sensitivities and perceptions. They are also better placed to address conflict prevention through mediation, arbitration and reconciliation, as well as handle differences between warring groups.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations recognizes that important role for regional organizations with regard to global peace and security. It is therefore Botswana's belief that the engagement of regional organizations at an early stage of conflict helps contain it before it manifests itself, or even spreads and becomes out of hand. In playing our part, my delegation has engaged in intervention and mediation efforts at the political level by using the experience and wisdom of our former leaders, especially within our subregion. At the regional level, we operate in the context of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) troika. At the continental level, we engage and continue to work through the African Panel of the Wise. Having just assumed the chairmanship of SADC, we pledge to continue to live by the values, traditions and culture of SADC as a cornerstone of regional cooperation. In that connection, we shall remain steadfast in our commitment to the principles of democracy, inclusive development, the rule of law and the promotion and protection of human rights for all. We continue to strongly support action against all forms of threats to international peace and security, as well as action for the strengthening of institutions of accountability at national, regional and international levels.

To conclude, Botswana reaffirms its unwavering support to the efforts of regional organizations in promoting and protecting international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt.

Mr. Mahmoud (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Nigerian presidency of the Security Council for holding this debate on regional organizations and contemporary challenges of global security. I am also grateful for the concept note (S/2015/599, annex) prepared on such an important subject. We fully support it.

The founders responsible for the Charter of the United Nations showed foresight in drafting Chapter VIII of the Charter as the basis for a partnership between the United Nations and the Security Council, as that body responsible for international peace and security, on the one hand, and regional and subregional organizations, on the other. Given their important role in managing and preventing conflicts, the seventieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter is an opportunity to consider these issues in the light of the increase in the number of challenges and threats, which no party on its own can face up to. Therefore, we need collective efforts of a strategic nature to confront them. Egypt, which is a founding Member of the United Nations and of two major regional organizations — the African Union, which is the largest in terms of membership and the challenges it faces, and the League of Arab States, which is one of the oldest regional organizations — has always insisted on partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in order to face challenges. I would like to underscore the following:

First, past experience has shown the comparative advantage of regional organizations, including their deep understanding of the underlying causes of conflicts. That means that they play an important role in terms of mediation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts. They also have the capacity to take difficult, even very difficult, decisions, to end conflicts at an early stage when the international community may be hesitant to intervene. The African Union and subregional organizations in Africa cooperate on Somalia, Darfur, Mali and the Central African Republic. That demonstrates the capacity that Africa has to pay the highest price to establish peace and security, while respecting the need for there to be African solutions to Africa's problems.

Secondly, the contemporary challenges to peace and security, such as terrorism, organized crime, piracy, arms and drug trafficking and trafficking in natural resources are all cross-border in nature. They are not limited to one single country, and they all pose a threat to international security. Therefore, all those problems need to be dealt with in a global manner, as well as locally and internationally, in order to deal with their security and humanitarian consequences. We

must also deal with the underlying causes. The post-2015 development agenda could establish a proper framework in that area.

Thirdly, the role of regional and subregional organizations is not limited to peace and security. They also play a role in the economic collective strategy for sustainable development in order to ensure the establishment of peace and stability. The report of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (see S/2015/446) shows the importance played by regional organizations in preventive diplomacy. The Panel has made a number of important recommendations for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in that context. The report also servese to illustrate the importance such bodies play in establishing and consolidating peace in countries emerging from conflict.

In the light of all that, we must enhance the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations — headed by the African Union and the League of Arab States — so that everyone can benefit from the respective comparatives advantage, while duly allocating responsibilities through a plan of work that enhances regional capacities and consultation mechanisms. That would allow for the establishment of a joint strategy that brings together the efforts of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. Accordingly, we reiterate the importance of the support provided by the United Nations to regional organizations, including the African Union through the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme, which will end in 2016. Such support includes that provided for the African Standby Force to help develop a vision for the future. We therefore emphasize the importance of the the current recommendations and those set out in the 2008 Prodi report (S/2008/813) with regard to peackeeping operations in which the African Union participates via a Security Council mandate, while of course taking into account the United Nations and the Security Council's responsibility with regard to peace and security.

I would like to point to the Sharm El-Sheikh declaration adopted last year on establishing a joint Arab peacekeeping force for Arab countries in order to confront any challenge faced by them, including any threat to Arab national security coming from terrorist and other groups. We were among the first to establish such a force.

With regard to the efforts being made to settle problems faced by the Arab region, the same Sharm El-Sheikh summit adopted a resolution that conferred upon Egypt the chairmanship of a committee to do whatever necessary to halt the Israeli occupation and come up with a solution to the Palestinian question. Given the changing nature of the security problems faced by the world today, Egypt would like to reiterate the fact that a deeper and broader partnership at the regional level is of vital importance.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Reyes Rodríguez (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba commends the Nigerian presidency of the Security Council on guiding our work, and especially, Madam President, your presence here throughout the day.

We support the statement made by the representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Cuba welcomes and supports the holding of this open debate of the Security Council on an issue as important as the one before us. Maintaining international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the Security Council, and one of the purposes of the United Nations. Therefore, all States Members have the duty to promote it.

Cuba has the honour — alongside 32 other States of the Latin America and Caribbean region — of belonging to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). It is a mechanism for dialogue and consultation that is becoming a political forum and actor in promoting the process of political, economic, social and cultural integration, thereby achieving the necessary balance between the unity and diversity of our peoples.

In its short history, CELAC has already reached a major milestone, which is the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace — in the context of the second Summit, held in Havana. That proclamation confirms our region's commitment to the principles of international law and enhances the culture of peace, with the aim of removing forever the threat or use of force, promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and promoting the commitment of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean to encourage friendly relations and cooperation among themselves and other nations, regardless of their differences.

We believe that CELAC is a tangible example of how regional integration can lead to ongoing dialogue and be based on the principle of complementarity, in order to work towards achieving the inclusive development of its member States on the basis of solidarity. In facing contemporary challenges to global security, regional and subregional organizations and their member States must always uphold decision-making on the basis of consensus and through framework of multilateralism. Those elements will always form the foundation of an effective international order — one that rejects unilateral steps that are extraterritorial in nature and contrary to international law, and may endanger multilateralism.

The role of regional organizations and associations in no way reduces the responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, for the United Nations to become a standard for transparency, democracy and participation of the entire international community in resolving serious global problems, it is urgent to reform the Organization. That includes having a Security Council that is democratic and transparent, in which none of its members should promote armed confrontations or the philosophy of regime change. That contradicts the purposes and principles that should guide the Organization.

The General Assembly must also be revitalized. It should assume its key role in achieving the rights of peoples and every individual to have a fair, democratic and equitable international order that supports the efforts of States to build a future that each nation decides for itself.

We are convinced that, despite the positive contribution made by regional and subregional organizations, international peace and security will continue to be threatened as long as we do not have a common view of what are the actual threats to peace and security.

International peace and security will continue to be threatened in the absence of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which threaten the survival of the human species. Cuba will continue to work actively in its national capacity and as a member of other groups of States — such as the Non-aligned Movement and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean — to achieve the elimination and total ban on those weapons.

International peace and security will continue to be threatened as long as there is no defined concept of the terrorism that we are fighting — because we cannot define terrorism as good or bad depending on who perpetrates it. We must all commit ourselves to combating terrorism, whatever its forms or manifestations, wherever it takes place and whoever its author. But in that battle, we must neither forget nor violate the principles that underlie the Charter of the United Nations.

To prevent conflict and maintain peace, it is necessary to have solidarity, cooperation and international assistance. And we must work together to eliminate poverty, unemployment, hunger, inequalities and the causes of those inequalities.

In our view, international peace and security can be maintained only if we all respect the principles of the Charter of the Organization, as well as international law, which enshrine the principles the sovereign equality of all States, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, political independence, the non-resort to the threat or use of force against any State and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

Cuba will continue to contribute its modest resources to the welfare of other peoples, especially the most vulnerable. It will remain committed to supporting international cooperation to achieve sustainable, inclusive development and to the defence of international peace and security.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Mialkovskyi (Ukraine): I thank you, Madam, for convening this important thematic debate.

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (EU). At the same time I would like to make a statement in my national capacity.

Numerous conflicts throughout the world have created an environment in which the United Nations alone cannot respond effectively to emerging threats to international peace and security. In that regard, I would like to underscore that Chapter VIII is as relevant today as ever. Regional organizations, with their experience in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through conflict prevention, confidence-building and mediation, are strengthening the capacity of the United Nations.

Deep cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations is a vital element in the contemporary world, where the international community is facing such complex challenges. We firmly support the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen its relations with regional organizations, with the ultimate goal of achieving a concrete, positive impact on the political and socioeconomic development of the regions.

In 2015, we are marking the seventieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War and of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations. Throughout these 70 years, the United Nations has faced numerous and complex challenges, including terrorism and extremism, conflicts, poverty, unemployment, inequality and climate change. Unfortunately, today we can add to that list a brutal violation of the Charter of the United Nations by one of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Soon it will be a year and a half that Ukraine has been subject to Russian aggression. The Council is well aware of the outcomes — Crimea and Sevastopol have been forcibly annexed, while the Donbas has been plunged into violence, with thousands killed, over 1 million displaced and regional infrastructure destroyed. The contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been an important part of the international community's response to the threats arising from Russia's aggression against Ukraine. We highly appreciate the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, in line with the agreed mandate covering the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Mission enjoys Ukraine's full support in the implementation of its tasks, in particular those related to monitoring and verification under the Minsk agreements.

We regret the fact that, despite significant international efforts, the situation on the ground remains tense and volatile, with casualties among Ukrainian servicemen and civilians on the rise due to a surge in the activity of Russia-backed militants. Although we have made active use of the crisis mechanisms of the United Nations and the OSCE, that has not prevented the illegal occupation of Crimea and Sevastopol, or direct Russian military involvement in the Donbas. Moreover, Russia continues to consolidate its aggression despite its own commitments to de-escalation under the Minsk agreements.

In the current circumstances, we believe that the capacity of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission should be strengthened, including by increasing the level of cooperation with the United Nations. In that respect, we look forward to hearing from the Secretary-General on how the United Nations can assist the OSCE in contributing to the implementation of the Minsk agreement, in particular with regard to his idea to establish a relevant United Nations office in Ukraine.

The development of a strong partnership between the United Nations and the European Union is increasingly critical as global crises intensify in complexity and multiply in scope. In the case of the EU, that might be achieved by making effective use of the existing common security and defence policy tools, including by better linking them to the EU's foreign affairs, humanitarian assistance and solidarity.

In terms of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, we still think that the EU Common Security and Defence Policy crisis management operation could be one of the appropriate solutions, not only allowing for the maintainance of peace and security, but also facilitating political processes, protecting civilians and human rights, and assisting in restoring the rule of law. We believe that if our suggestion were implemented, it could enhance the arsenal of measures already in place to make Russia abide by the rules and live in peace with its neighbours.

I would like to underscore that Ukraine fully recognizes the important role that OSCE plays in observing the implementation of the Minsk agreements. At the same time, achieving a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions requires additional efforts, including the involvement of available international means and tools.

In recent years, cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development—GUAM, which Ukraine chairs this year, has developed with General Assembly resolution 69/271 on United Nations-GUAM cooperation. One example I could mention is the ongoing projects with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), such as the Afghan Opiate Trade Project of the UNODC and the joint GUAM/UNODC project in combatting money-laundering, as well as in seizing and confiscating criminal proceeds. GUAM also plans to develop cooperation with the United

Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The political cooperation of GUAM member States is based on their common vision and well-rooted traditions. The statutory documents and summit declarations of GUAM are in line with basic United Nations approaches to regional cooperation, creating political stability and economic prosperity, allowing universal values to take hold and establishing a peaceful and promising civil society that enables personal fulfilment.

All our member States suffer from unresolved conflicts, some of which have existed for decades. Those conflicts undermine peace, security and cooperation and generate impacts both at the regional level and in their trans-Atlantic dimension. Triggered from outside and accompanied by foreign military interference, such conflicts can find a peaceful resolution exclusively on the basis of the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, particularly those related to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the States concerned within their internationally recognized borders.

The activities of GUAM during the ongoing Ukrainian chairmanship have encompassed a number of projects and programmes aimed at the creation of a zone of stability and cooperation in the region. As already mentioned, since the occupation of Crimea Ukraine has faced an expanded Russian aggression of hybrid character on its eastern borders, accompanied by an unprecedented media campaign. Therefore, we look forward more than ever to obtaining further support for GUAM efforts, which would be aimed, first of all, at building the capacities of its member States. It is also a matter of crucial importance to keep pace with and increase the dynamic of projects that would energize the economic sector as well as enhance security measures.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Armenia.

Mr. Mnatsakanyan (Armenia): Armenia expresses its appreciation to the Nigerian presidency for initiating this debate and for providing an excellent concept note (S/2015/599, annex). We also thank the Secretary-General for his detailed briefing earlier today.

No country can be effective in pursuing its national agenda without engagement with others. That is particularly obvious for countries with modest capacities. The regional and subregional levels of cooperation provide an effective platform for pursuing specific common objectives for countries bound by common security goals, common values, or mere geographic proximity. In the context of the present debate, the global level of cooperation here in the United Nations, inter alia, is a critical form of interregional engagement.

As a member of numerous regional organizations, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Armenia benefits greatly from the institutional strength and effectiveness of the European regional and subregional landscape of cooperation, including in the fields of political dialogue, security, human rights, democratic transformation and the strengthening of the rule of law, trade and economy, culture and youth.

In our national context, the peaceful resolution of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law without exception are of particular significance, given the ongoing negotiations for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict within the internationally supported format of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship. This format is by far the most effective one in our particular case for several reasons, not least its capacity to sustain focus on a compromise solution, to defuse tensions and to prevent escalation. Consolidated support for these negotiations by the international community, including this body and the Secretary-General, is critical in deflecting attempts to pursue mediation shopping and lopsided, often highly biased interpretations of the causes and consequences of the conflict.

Armenia welcomes the unwavering and continued support of the United Nations system and the Secretary-General for the established format of negotiations and for the OSCE Minsk Group co-Chairs.

As a member of the CSTO, Armenia will continue to deliver on its commitment to forge stronger cooperation with the United Nations in order to contribute to international peace and to United Nations peacekeeping capacities. As a troop-contributing country, Armenia has acquired considerable national experience in its engagements in NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and in Kosovo. Previously, Armenian peacekeepers have also been engaged in Iraq. Over the past year Armenia also has acquired new and

valuable experience in a United Nations-led operation in Lebanon. Armenia has been investing its experience in the strengthening of preparedness for peacekeeping within the CSTO. In this context, we welcome the expanding cooperation of the United Nations with the CSTO, including between their respective secretariats. We look forward to the United Nations presence at and observance of a combined exercise of the CSTO peacekeeping forces entitled "Cooperation 2015", to be held in Armenia in early autumn.

Armenia attaches equally high importance to its work within all other regional and subregional organizations of which it is a member or with which it has close cooperation. The present international agenda, with proliferating threats, disagreements and conflicts, makes it particularly urgent to redouble the efforts made towards seeking common solutions and sustainable dialogue. Smaller States are particularly vulnerable and sensitive to situations in which disagreements at the regional and global levels pose a risk of the emergence of dividing lines. Armenia is not an exception to such vulnerabilities and sensitivities.

Civil society is an important contributor to the effective addressing of security challenges globally and regionally. For decades, non-governmental organization representatives and human rights activists have been playing an indispensable role in promoting peace, reconciliation, mutual trust and understanding. That function remains a critical supporting and consolidating factor for all peace processes, wherever they might take place, not least in the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Such efforts must be continually supported.

In conclusion, Armenia believes in the viability and efficiency of both the United Nations and regional mechanisms in enhancing trust, confidence-building and dialogue among nations. Regional and subregional organizations have an essential role to play. They often have a better understanding of local circumstances, tailored approaches and effective tools, as well as their own resources and financing. Cooperation and dialogue among States from the subregional to the regional to global levels has been and remains the modus operandi for the sustainability of peace, security and cooperation.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. Van Oosterom (Netherlands): Let me first express my appreciation to the presidency of Nigeria for organizing this important open debate. Let me also thank you, Madam President, for being here with us at this late hour and doing us the honour of being personally present here.

In view of time constraints, I will read out a shortened version of my statement. The full version will be available on my Twitter account.

I align myself with the statement made earlier by the observer of the European Union (EU), which gave an extensive overview of the ways in which the EU is playing its role as a regional organization and as a partner in confronting contemporary challenges to global peace and security.

Only by forging stronger partnerships can the international community effectively address current challenges to peace and security. These partnerships, in our view, should include cooperation not only between international, regional and subregional organizations, but also between Governments, civil society, business communities and development organizations.

Regional organizations play an essential role in addressing issues of peace and security. This applies to the prevention of conflict, the containment and resolution of conflict and rebuilding in the post-conflict phase. It is the ambition of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to be a partner for peace, justice and development in all these three phases. Let me touch on each of the three.

First, on prevention, we believe that regional and subregional organizations are well positioned to understand the root causes of armed conflicts. They are often aware of emerging conflicts very early on, and they are well placed to use tools such as mediation for conflict prevention, a point just made by our Armenian colleague. An interesting example is the Organization of American States Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia, implemented with the support of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As many here are aware, Colombia is one of the neighbouring countries of our Kingdom. Our Kingdom consists of four autonomous countries, three of which — Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten — are in the Caribbean,

(*spoke in French*)

and we also consider Haiti to be a neighbouring country.

(*spoke in English*)

We are intensifying our Kingdom's cooperation with the the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) regional organization to address current regional security challenges, and therefore CARICOM is also a very important cooperation partner for us.

The third example relates to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, of which the Netherlands is a founding member State. It usually follows a multidimensional approach, focusing on the politic, economic and human dimensions of conflict, and is therefore able to play a crucial role in monitoring and verifying the implementation of the Minsk agreement, which is the basis for a sustainable solution to the conflict in full respect of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Also during conflict, regional organizations are crucial. In that phase, the international community must do its utmost to contain and mitigate the consequences of conflict and to resolve it. Peacekeeping is often needed to protect civilians and to create the conditions for peace. In Mali, the Netherlands is proud to be an active partner in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to that effect.

Of course, a political process is crucial to achieve peace. On the African continent, the Kingdom of the Netherlands pays tribute to the increasingly important role that the African Union (AU) is playing in maintaining peace and security. Great progress has been made in recent years in implementing the African Peace and Security Architecture. The Peace and Security Council has proved to be a key force behind the increased action and visibility of the AU. Today, AU missions are increasingly deployed ahead of United Nations missions, making them important instruments for stabilizing conflicts and guaranteeing security.

In the political process, subregional organizations are often the best placed to help steer countries in conflict back onto the road to peace. Important recent examples in Africa are, of course, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In very tense and complicated situations, their efforts need to be enhanced and supported by the international community, for example by the IGAD-Plus formula. As was said earlier today, the European Union takes pride in our close cooperation with the African Union.

My third point concerns the importance of regional organizations in the post-conflict phase. There, timely and coordinated efforts are needed to prevent a relapse into conflict. If exit strategies are nothing more than an afterthought, countries are at great risk of falling back into conflict. In our view, therefore, peacebuilding must be an essential element of every mission. It must be included in initial planning, and it must be part of a comprehensive vision for peace, justice and sustainable development for conflict situations. The United Nations and regional and subregional organizations have to make that shift together in order to save lives and prevent cycles of violence.

In conclusion, I would like to quote from the report of the High-level Panel on Peace Operations (see S/2015/446), which says:

> "We have truly entered an era of partnership peacekeeping, indeed of partnership in all aspects of the international peace and security agenda."

Now is the time for the United Nations to reach out and strengthen those partnerships, developing mature and productive relationships based on trust, mutual responsibility and accountability. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is committed to remaining a partner in peace, justice and development for that worthy purpose.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Haiti.

Mr. Régis (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to commend the Security Council's decision to organize this debate, which fits well with its mandate and the essential role it plays in international peace and security. It is to the Council's credit that it has invited Member States to further reflect on this vital topic, and particularly on the place and role of regional organizations in establishing a more balanced world.

Even if the concept of a threat to peace, as stated in Article 39 of the Charter of the United Nations, is still regarded by some as ambiguous and elusive from the point of view of international law, threats to peace and security are no less real and have continued to multiply and increase in intensity. That is why the scope of United Nations interventions in the area of peacekeeping has continued to expand. From the Palme Commission to the Brahimi report (S/2000/809) via Boutros Boutros-Ghali's Agenda for Peace (S/24111),

there have been many United Nations initiatives aimed at establishing an international consensus on the key aspects of global security.

In recent decades, alongside traditional threats such as the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, we have witnessed the development of a whole range of new threats to peace. Whether they are military, political, economic or in the areas of health or the environment, whether they are inter-State in nature or stem from non-State entities and actors working in the international arena, there is no denying that these new threats occupy an ever-growing place on the international security agenda. They include the rise of international terrorism, the proliferation of local and regional crises, crimes against civilians, mass atrocities, the expansion of organized crime, massive population transfers and other global challenges such as poverty and environmental crises.

The Charter of the United Nations enshrines the political primacy of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security. However, recent history has shown that in national conflicts the Council's actions are often subject to multiple political and strategic constraints that in some major regional crisis situations have left it virtually paralysed even when the circumstances warranted an urgent intervention. Faced with this barrage of new threats, the international community can only gain from the closer involvement of regional organizations in every possible effort to reduce threats to peace and security, whether by preventing or slowing the arms race, stemming the threat of nuclear proliferation or resolving problems and conflicts that could jeopardize strategic balances in various regions.

In the spirit of its fundamental responsibility, and given the principle of subsidiarity that is implicit in the Charter, the Security Council is called on to encourage the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional organizations, either on the initiative of the States concerned or by reference from the Security Council. The Council is therefore taking a new approach to peacekeeping operations based on a comprehensive, coherent and integrated vision of what is needed to fight threats to peace and security. It reflects a growing awareness that no stabilization, peacekeeping or peacebuilding mission, however well-intentioned, can have an impact in resolving a conflict it is asked to settle or produce lasting results if it does not address the fundamental problems, including poverty, that are at the root of the crisis. That is why the Republic of Haiti welcomes the convergence of actions by the Security Council and regional organizations, in which development assistance and poverty reduction combine with policy initiatives in the areas of security, the protection of human rights, good governance and the strengthening of the rule of law, with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of United Nations efforts on the ground within the framework of post-conflict stabilization and reconstruction activities.

My country also believes that development is an essential response to the myriad threats that are fuelled to a great extent by situations of poverty and despair. In that regard, we believe that since sovereign States must be the first responders in the face of threats to peace, we should provide more substantial international support to them, particularly the poorest countries, which are often ill-equipped to exercise their sovereignty responsibly and address their immediate security challenges effectively.

In conclusion, by organizing today's meeting, the Security Council has sought to reaffirm the importance it attaches to the role of regional and subregional organizations and to its cooperation with them in order to maintain peace and international security, in conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter. I am convinced that today's dialogue will make a considerable contribution to achieving that goal.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Uganda.

Mr. Muhumuza (Uganda): I would first like to congratulate you, Madam President, on Nigeria's accession to the presidency of the Council for this month and on your successful conduct of its affairs, and to thank you for holding this debate on the important topic of regional organizations and the contemporary challenges to global security. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing earlier today.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Article 52 of the Charter of the United Nations makes provision for the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action, consistent with

the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It was therefore appropriate that when Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali issued his June 1992 report "An Agenda for Peace" (S/24111), at the end of the Cold War, he highlighted the role that regional organizations could play in preventive diplomacy, early warning systems for crisis prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

In 2002, African Heads of State recast the objectives of the Organization of African Unity and transformed it into the African Union (AU). Part of the objective was for Africa to respond to various conflicts on the continent and to reestablish sustainable peace and security, not just for individual Member States, but for the region as a whole. Africa further came up with its own system to address a broad spectrum of matters, including peace and security, by launching the African Peace and Security Architecture, leading to the creation of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

My delegation believes that global security cannot be achieved without cooperation with regional organizations. Given their in-depth understanding of respective regions as well as their geographic proximity to challenging environments, regional and subregional organizations are often uniquely positioned to understand the particular local dynamics and root causes of those challenges. Ugandan President Museveni has said that in some cases, even before the international forces acquaint themselves with the names of the protagonists in a conflict situation, regional actors might have made an impact in the early stages of such a conflict.

Regional and subregional organizations are at the centre of promoting cooperation and integration in such areas as trade and investment, infrastructure development and critical sectors, in the case of Uganda, such as agriculture, energy, water and security, as well as the fostering of private-sector partnerships. Uganda believes that, due to the leverage regional and subregional organizations have had within our respective countries, they can, and often do, provide useful forums for policy coordination and harmonization on various important multilateral processes.

My delegation is of the view that regional and subregional organizations require the political support of the United Nations and international community for successful preventive diplomacy and crisis management, not unlike what the East African Community has received in its Burundi political intervention or the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in the South Sudan civil war. However, we would like to partner with the Security Council in those initiatives. The Council needs to work hand in hand with affected countries on procedural issues and the drafting of press and presidential statements and resolutions that concern areas of operation. I will briefly state why.

My delegation would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening the United Nations-AU partnership. The concept of a United Nations-supported regional force, like the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), is simply an evolving construct that can be traced back to the United Nations Mission in Liberia takeover from the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group in Liberia in 1990, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur in 2004, the Force Integration Brigade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African-led International Support Mission in Mali and the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic.

The implementation of peacekeeping mandates has, in some cases, also been severely hampered due to a variety of factors, including insufficient troop numbers, challenges faced by the Council in overseeing the management of integrated operations, difficulties in generating and quickly deploying well-equipped troops and competent civilian capacity. Further challenges to global security include the issue of resources for regional organizations. Whereas the African Union has shown willingness to participate in peacekeeping operations, those initiatives lie largely in the hands of under-resourced regional countries. In the past, the Security Council has hesitated to provide the degree of practical and material support in the peacekeeping context that the AU Peace and Security Council has requested. That is a major area where consistency and predictability are required for regional partnerships to be successful.

Allow me to give an example of a successful partnership which has led to greater global security. Following the establishment of AMISOM, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to provide a United Nations logistical support package to AMISOM, including equipment and services, until 1 June 2009 or until the Council reached a decision on establishing a United Nations force. By that time, it was clear to the AU that the troops were operating in an untenable

situation and required an adjustment in their mandate. The Ugandan Government therefore requested that the Security Council strengthen the mandate of AMISOM to a more robust one so that it could dislodge militants who had increased attacks on the Somali Government. In our statement to the Security Council at that time (see S/PV.6068), my delegation argued that the wording of the mandates rendered AMISOM an observer in an active conflict. This is a place where partnerships between the African Union and the Security Council can come in the wording of such mandates. AMISOM had become a peacekeeping force in an environment that was not peaceful. In addition, there was a need for at least 16,000 troops in Somalia if the situation obtaining then was to be contained and for the relevance of the troop presence to be felt.

In our view, Madam President, resolution 1863 (2009) marked the turning point for AMISOM's tangible successes. The Council responded positively by renewing the AMISOM mandate for another six months and authorizing the Mission to take all necessary measures to protect key infrastructure in Somalia as well as to create the appropriate security conditions for the delivery of humanitarian aid. It also requested that the African Union maintain the AMISOM deployment and reinforce the original 8,000 troop deployment in order to enhance the Mission's capability to carry out an unfettered peace enforcement mandate and to protect key installations around Mogadishu.

AMISOM has transitioned beyond Burundi and Uganda, and now we have Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sierra Leone also providing troops. Ghana and Nigeria are among the police contributors. The peace dividend from joint efforts within the AMISOM family cannot be overstated. We now have businesses flourishing in Mogadishu and investors have the confidence to venture into Somalia. The seaport is also vibrant and airlines have reopened their flight routes into Somalia.

In conclusion, even though Africa seems to have the greatest security challenges, it is also the place where a partnership has the highest potential to make an impact. The United Nations needs to fast-track its efforts to broaden the contributor base by working with partners at the regional and subregional levels. It should take advantage of those capacities and we welcome the efforts so far taken in that regard.

In order to foster that relationship further, the United Nations needs to familiarize itself with the AU institutional design, its working methods, practices and capacities and vice versa. Both organizations need to commit to exercising diligence, transparency and good-will towards a workable partnership. The United Nations should take maximum advantage of the strengths and roles that regional organizations such as the African Union and subregional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States can play. We should build on the lessons of our past and current experiences to create ever more innovative and flexible partnerships that draw on respective strengths, while encouraging expanded cooperation and dialogue.

While Uganda commends the United Nations system for coping with various African situations, with varying degrees of success, it has been done mainly through political and peacekeeping tools. United Nations peacekeeping has been the most visible tool and in several cases it has been very effective. By contrast, United Nations conflict prevention and mediation efforts have been less visible and United Nations coordination of integrated programmes to address the root causes of conflict has been even less effective. That can clearly be seen by analyzing the resources allocated to the new peacebuilding architecture. It is incumbent upon us to find ways of ensuring predictable and sustainable financing for regional and subregional organizations, especially in cases where they carry out not just peacekeeping but also peacebuilding initiatives.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Benin.

Mr. Adoumasse (Benin) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers who have extended to you, Madam President, sincere congratulations over the accession of your beautiful country, Nigeria, to the presidency of the Security Council and to express the full support of my country, Benin, in fulfilling that noble mission. I express the deep appreciation of my country to New Zealand, Nigeria's predecessor in that role, for their leadership in discharging their task.

Benin aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The concept note (S/2015/599, annex) prepared by Nigeria as a guide for this open debate and the briefing made this morning by the Secretary-General provide

highly relevant analyses of the situation. In the view of the Government of Benin, the topic of today's debate is particularly important because of the great interest it holds for the future of the African continent, as we believe that regional organizations are the appropriate instruments to confront contemporary challenges to global security. Moreover, that approach is fully in line with the collective security system established by the Charter of the United Nations.

While the Charter of the United Nations does not impose an obligation on Member States, it implicitly assigns them the responsibility for first-response measures in situations that represent a threat to international peace and security. That is the deeper meaning of Chapter VIII, which recognizes that regional organizations have the role of addressing matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security that manifest regional characteristics. It is therefore fortunate that several regional integration organizations, initially geared towards promoting the economic development of their member States, have now acquired competencies in matters of peace and security in response to the significant impact of political and military crises that have gravely affected the environment in which they carry out their original statutory activities.

Contemporary challenges in peacekeeping and international security are many and complex, and their resolution holds the key to the survival of humankind. Those challenges include terrorism and violent extremism, as embodied by Boko Haram, the Islamic State, Al-Qaida and affiliated networks and entities, and the multiple crises and conflicts that have plunged our peoples into mourning. The role of regional and subregional organizations must be taken seriously into account in responding to and meeting those challenges. This debate allows us to gather the varied perspectives on ways to implement the crucial cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, particularly in Africa, to deal with threats to international peace and security.

The most advanced regional organizations with significant financial means, material resources and proven expertise, should, in our view, be fully brought to bear in actions to strengthen the capacities of African regional and subregional organizations in the prevention of conflicts, crisis management and post-conflict stabilization. Benin supports the provisions of resolution 2167 (2014), which clearly lays out the guidelines to be followed in that context.

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in most peace operations of the African Union has proven its worth and relevance. Such cooperation has led, inter alia, to operations such as the African Union Mission in Somalia and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and enabled remarkable progress in combating the terrorist group Al-Shabaab in Somalia and the gradual stabilization of the situation in Darfur. We must draw on the lessons learned from those successful collaborations to continue to improve the strategic partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, using the most pragmatic formulas to address the challenges by ensuring the funding of operations undertaken by regional organizations with the approval of the Security Council, in accordance with its mandated powers.

My delegation believes that successful cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union lies in greater coherence of action through regular consultations between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, with a view to a more flexible use of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and taking into account the intrinsic realities of each crisis and conflict.

It is important to address the outstanding issues in the development of the strategic partnership of the United Nations with the African Union and the regional economic communities in matters of peace and security, with a forward-looking view to making the most of such partnerships for the benefit of the effectiveness of the collective security system established by the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council must assume its full, primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Member States should work towards the emergence of credible regional organizations throughout the world to guarantee their effectiveness in managing situations and finding solutions to the multifarious complex challenges of today.

I conclude my statement by commending the European Union, whose commitment to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly those regarding cooperation with African regional and subregional organizations, represents an example to follow. Through its training of thousands of African soldiers, its capacity-building

projects and its financial and material support, the European Union is on the frontline of cooperation with regional and subregional organizations as a way of resolving conflicts and creating conditions conducive to peace and security on the continent, with a view to the sustainable development of its States.

However beyond military action, the search for peace must attach greater importance to interreligious and intercultural dialogue to promote peaceful relations among peoples. That dialogue must involve all components of society acting collectively to address the root causes of conflict and establish healthy relations between grass-roots communities. That was the overriding goal of the symposium held in Cotonou from 26 to 28 May, which adopted the African Initiative for Education on Peace and Development through Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue. The manifesto strongly urged, inter alia, the development and implementation of national peace policies through dialogue by working together to conceive, plan and manage development projects broadly, embracing religious and cultural sensitives at all levels within all countries.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7506

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7506th meeting

Wednesday, 19 August 2015, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
	Chad	Mr. Mangaral
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Mr. Zhao Yong
	France	Mr. Lamek
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Šorytė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: I address the Security Council at a time when the risk of escalation in Israel and Palestine is palpable. The past month has witnessed unconscionable crimes of hatred committed by extremist elements, reprehensible retaliatory violence, provocations at Jerusalem's holy sites and a worrying increase in rockets launched from Gaza towards Israel. The coming days will see the anniversary of the conclusion of last year's devastating Gaza conflict, a conflict from which the Palestinians there have yet to recover. One year on, their continued suffering highlights the inadequacy of our collective response to date. I therefore begin my briefing to the Council today with an appeal to political, military, community and religious leaders on all sides to work together to reduce tensions, reject violence and prevent extremists from escalating the situation and hijacking the political agenda.

I reiterate the Secretary-General's strong condemnation of the horrific terrorist arson attack, apparently committed by extremist Jewish settlers, on a Palestinian family in the occupied West Bank village of Duma in the early hours of 31 July. The attack killed 18-month-old Ali Dawabsha. His father died of wounds five days later, while his mother and four-year-old brother are still fighting for their lives. The Secretary-General has welcomed the strong condemnations of the attack by Prime Minister Netanyahu and other Israeli officials, as well as political and religious leaders across the spectrum. At the same time, we denounce the calls that have been made by Hamas and Islamic Jihad to escalate the violence and carry out revenge attacks. At a moment of heightened emotions and anger, such incitement can serve only to bring about more tragedy. I urge the Israeli Government to promptly bring the perpetrators of this heinous act to justice.

I also note the Israeli Cabinet's decision on 2 July to strengthen the legal and institutional means for addressing terrorism by Jewish extremists and ensure that the new anti-terrorism law applies equally to all perpetrators. However, I am concerned about the decision to extend the use of prolonged administrative detention, which the United Nations has consistently opposed. This practice, whether used against Palestinians or Israelis, is incompatible with international human rights standards and should be ended. All administrative detainees should be promptly charged or released. I want to underscore that this attack, like so many over the years, including those against Israeli settlers, occurred in the context of chronically inadequate law enforcement in the West Bank. Such violence is possible because of the environment created as a result of Israel's decades-long policy of illegal settlement activities.

The goal is clear, but more than 20 years of failed negotiations have bred mistrust and, worse, have led to the slow and painful withering of hope. In such a contentious environment, restoring confidence, before returning to realistic negotiations, is a must. What is needed now is a comprehensive approach on three levels — on the ground, in the region and with the international community — to fundamentally alter the current negative dynamics and begin to shape a clear and positive pathway towards peace. On the Israeli side, that should reflect significant policy shifts to enable Palestine's sovereignty, economy and security to grow. On the Palestinian side, unity is critical. The legitimate Palestinian Authority must represent all of Palestine and all Palestinians. I am encouraged by the increased cooperation between the Quartet and key regional actors, and I fully support enhanced exploration of how the region, including through the Arab Peace Initiative, may contribute to resolving the conflict. The Secretary-General supports the Quartet's work to connect these various levels of engagement.

In the West Bank, after failed attempts to form a Palestinian Government of national unity, a Government reshuffle resulted in the appointment on 31 July of five new ministers. The process met with some resistance among Palestinian factions.

The reporting period was marked by continued violence, including incidents that resulted in Palestinian

casualties as well as a number of attacks on Israelis and Israeli security forces. Israeli security forces conducted some 188 search-and-arrest operations, resulting in the arrest of some 292 Palestinians. A total of 203 Palestinians were injured, including 40 children and seven women. Six Palestinians were shot and killed by Israeli security forces, including a 17-year-old. Twelve members of the Israeli security forces were also wounded, with no fatalities reported. I reiterate that any use of force by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, must be consistent with international human rights law. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank resulted in injuries to nine Palestinians, including four children, and seven Israelis. On 12 August, in what was apparently a retaliatory attack for the administrative detention of several Jewish extremists, another arson attack was reported in Ein Samia, where a tent belonging to a Bedouin was set on fire and completely burned, reportedly by Jewish extremists.

Israel's practice of demolishing homes and structures also continued. This month, 86 structures, 26 of them residential, were demolished in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 177 Palestinians, including 89 children. On 17 August 22 structures were demolished in four communities in the planned E-1 area, affecting vulnerable Palestinian Bedouins in particular and displacing 78 people, including 49 children, the largest number of Palestinians displaced in the West Bank in one day in nearly three years. And yesterday 27 structures, eight of them residential, were demolished, resulting in 42 displaced, including 27 children in the Jordan Valley Area C community of Fasayil al-Wusta. The Secretary-General calls on the Israeli authorities to halt the demolitions of Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, revoke plans that would result in the forcible transfer of Palestinian communities and implement an inclusive planning and zoning regime that will enable Palestinians' residential and community development needs to be met.

Recent changes in Israeli law and policy affecting the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, risk compounding the already precarious human rights situation. On 30 July, the Knesset amended the Prisons Act to allow a judge to order the force-feeding of a hunger-striking prisoner to prevent imminent death, if that is recommended by a doctor. While Israel insists that it has established a careful legal mechanism in order to strictly limit this means of enforcement to instances where a threat to life exists, numerous human rights and medical bodies have questioned whether force-feeding meets international standards of medical ethics, safety and human rights. Care should be taken to consider and address the underlying human rights concerns, including prolonged administrative detention, that lead prisoners to undertake such extreme protests. We are aware that the status of prolonged hunger striker Mohammed Allan may be evolving.

On 20 July, the Knesset also amended the Israeli penal code to increase harsh punishments for throwing stones at moving vehicles, allowing for sentences of up 20 years. The law is likely to disproportionately affect children. In another legal development, the Israeli Supreme Court legitimized the applicability of Israel's 1951 absentee property law to Palestinian property in East Jerusalem when the owner is in the West Bank, a move that enables property to be expropriated from Palestinians who have become absentees through no fault of their own.

Turning to Gaza, the unrelenting pressure on the socioeconomic situation, owing to the continued closures, the lack of electricity and water and the slow pace of reconciliation, continues to feed the population's discontent. While much remains to be done, I welcome some positive developments on reconstruction, particularly under the residential stream of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, which enables the reconstruction of homes that have been completely destroyed. Since its launch in June, and thanks to financial assistance from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Germany, 2,250 families have been processed, of whom some 630 have already purchased construction materials. Although the Mechanism is working, current resources are insufficient to meet the massive demand for assistance. In a recent letter to the foreign ministers who participated in the October 2014 Cairo conference on Gaza's reconstruction, the Special Coordinator urged donor countries to fulfil their pledges.

We welcome Egypt's opening of the Rafah crossing for several days this week. The Secretary-General urges the Egyptian authorities to allow the Rafah crossing to be opened on a more regular basis while taking into account Egypt's security concerns.

Security incidents in Gaza continued to be recorded. The Secretary-General condemns the firing at Israel by Palestinian militants in Gaza of 24 rockets, one of which hit Israel with no reported injuries. Palestinian

militants also test-fired seven rockets at the sea. Israeli security forces conducted four air strikes inside Gaza. On 7 August, in response to a rocket fired from Gaza, the Israeli Air Force struck a Hamas training site, injuring four Palestinians. In incidents that took place following the Duma arson attack, a 17-year-old Palestinian was shot dead and two others were injured by Israeli security forces in the vicinity of the wall of separation.

The Secretary-General is relieved by Commissioner-General Krähenbühl's announcement today that the schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) will indeed open in time. The Secretary-General joins the Commissioner-General in expressing his appreciation in that regard to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden and the Slovak Republic. The Governments of host countries, particularly the State of Palestine, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Lebanon, have spared no effort during this challenging period. The Secretary-General is sincerely grateful for their support. A sustainable solution must still be found to address UNRWA's long-term funding needs so that we can ensure that the provision of basic services, such as education, are no longer at risk for Palestine refugees.

I should like to say few words about the situations in Lebanon and Syria. In Syria, the air raids by Syrian forces on a marketplace in the town of Douma, which reportedly killed and injured more than 300 civilians on 15 and 16 August, were some of the bloodiest since the conflict started in March 2011. This would constitute yet another crime for which those responsible must be held accountable. Hostilities must end and the parties must show genuine commitment to resolving the conflict through an irreversible political transition, by engaging in the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, as endorsed in the Security Council's presidential statement S/PRST/2015/15.

In Lebanon, political differences continued to hinder the proper functioning of Lebanese State institutions, despite Prime Minister Salam's commendable efforts to run the Government. We continue to call on Lebanon's leaders to act urgently and responsibly by filling the presidential vacuum without further delay. The situation along the Blue Line and in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon area of operations has remained calm, despite Israeli violations of Lebanese air space on an almost daily basis.

In conclusion, the recurrent violent incidents and radicalization in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, threaten to further destabilize an already tense environment. The incidents share a common thread. They are the inevitable product of a failure to make the tough choices necessary to resolve this conflict. They are the ramifications of a failure to prioritize the pursuit of a shared future built on trust rather than fear. We can no longer accept that reality. It is time to reverse the perilous tide that we are facing and restore, to Israelis and Palestinians alike, the hope that is in danger of being stifled by those promoting their hate-driven agendas.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7507

Security Council

Seventieth year

Provisional

7507th meeting

Wednesday, 19 August 2015, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mrs. Ogwu	(Nigeria)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Casimiro
	Chad	Mr. Gombo
	Chile	Mr. Barros Melet
	China	Ms. Yang Yi
	France	Mr. Stehelin
	Jordan	Mr. Hmoud
	Lithuania	Ms. Murmokaitė
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Today marks World Humanitarian Day, commemorating the 19 August 2003 terrorist attack on the Canal Hotel, which served as the United Nations compound in Baghdad. The attack killed 22 people and injured over 100, most of whom were working tirelessly on the humanitarian relief effort in Iraq.

Sadly, in the years since then, the number of people attacked while delivering life-saving assistance continues to rise. Ten humanitarian workers were killed in every month of 2014. In Syria, 77 humanitarians have lost their lives since the beginning of the conflict. In Yemen, five aid workers have been killed, others have been injured and another two were kidnapped this year. Over the past 10 years in Yemen, 17 humanitarian workers have died in the line of duty and 44 have been kidnapped. The contexts in which humanitarian workers serve around the world and the terrible plight of the more than 100 million people in need of humanitarian assistance they seek to reach continue to deteriorate.

I have just returned from Yemen, where the scale of human suffering is almost incomprehensible. I was shocked by what I saw. The civilian population is bearing the brunt of the conflict — a shocking four out of five Yemenis require humanitarian assistance and nearly 1.5 million people are internally displaced. More than 1,000 children have been killed or injured, and the number of young people recruited or used as fighters is increasing. As I highlighted in my 28 July briefing on Yemen (see S/PV.7493), the needs of the people are massive. That is exacerbated by impediments to commercial imports, resulting in widespread scarcity of food and fuel. Humanitarian assistance alone cannot meet all the needs of an entire country with a population of 26 million people. That is why airports and seaports need to remain open and be used for both commercial imports and humanitarian supplies without restriction.

Disregard for human life on the part of all parties continues, with attacks on residential areas and civilian infrastructure having a disproportionate impact on the lives of ordinary people in Yemen. Reports of air strikes and other shelling in and around the port of Al-Hudaydah earlier this week damaged the main lifelines for the import of basic goods: food, medicines and fuel. Those attacks are in clear contravention of international humanitarian law and are unacceptable. I am extremely concerned that the damage to the port of Al-Hudaydah could have a severe impact on the entire country and will deepen humanitarian needs, making more people food insecure and leaving them without access to water or medicines, which could also mean the spread of disease.

The parties to the conflict must ensure that humanitarian aid is facilitated and not hindered. All parties to the conflict must respect and implement international humanitarian law; possible violations must be investigated and perpetrators held accountable. I have seen the anguish of the Yemeni people with my own eyes — men, women and children alike, unsure where their next meal will come from or if they will ever be able to return to their homes.

In Sana'a, I witnessed queues for fuel that were kilometres long, and people waiting for several days to meet the basic needs of their families. I visited Al-Thawra hospital, where the lights flickered as the generators ran low on fuel, patients lay on the floor and cardboard was used as mattresses. There I saw a young man injured by shrapnel. He said he had been a soldier since he was 15 years of age. I saw a young woman who was grazed by a bullet across her face while sitting in her own home, and I saw a young Somali man with tuberculosis. The hospital has run out of examination gloves and has insufficient quantities of essential medicines because the supplier in Dubai is unable to fly their cold-chain aircraft to Sana'a. Hospital staff informed me that the blood bank recently closed due to a shortage of laboratory reagents used for screening.

In Faj Attan, a neighbourhood in Sana'a, I saw homes destroyed by air strikes; neighbours told me of the numerous civilian deaths and injuries. In Aden, an entire road of homes and businesses were destroyed

by street battles and air strikes, which left the streets littered with tanks and unexploded ordnance. I heard the story of a father and daughter who had been killed just days earlier by an improvised explosive device. The Governor of Aden informed me that some people were slowly returning to their homes and basic services were being restored, but not in vast swathes of the city, where unexploded ordnance litter the streets and buildings. People are overwhelmed by the scale of the destruction and the task ahead in rebuilding their shattered city. Electricity, essential for water-pumping and cereal-milling, is rare and intermittent.

It is appropriate on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day to reflect on the courage of my colleagues — Yemeni and international — who continue to deliver vital assistance despite the tremendous operational challenges, often risking their own lives to help others. Since the conflict began in late March, nearly 7 million people in Yemen have been supported by United Nations agencies and their partners with food, water, shelter, health support and protection assistance. I am humbled by the tireless efforts of my colleagues.

But much more needs to be done. We continue to scale up the humanitarian response so that we can reach all those in need with the assistance they so sorely need. That includes positioning more international staff across the country, outside of Sana'a and Al-Hudaydah. We aim to establish operational hubs in Aden, Ibb, Sa'ada and Al-Mukalla as soon as the security situation allows.

The success of our efforts to continue to assist the people depends on our having sufficient resources to respond. Today, the World Food Programme warned again that a lack of immediate and unhindered access to people who urgently need food assistance and the shortage of funding create the possibility of famine for millions of Yemenis. To date, only 18 per cent — some $282 million of the $1.6 billion requested through the Yemen humanitarian response plan — has been received. United Nations agencies have still not received the funding from Saudi Arabia of $274 million pledged in April. Even once those funds are received, the response plan will be funded at only 33 per cent. Substantial additional resources will be needed to support the Yemeni people through the rest of the year and beyond.

Throughout my mission, I emphasized that peace is essential to ending the tremendous suffering of the people. There is no military solution to this conflict. Peace must be reached through a dialogue of words, not a dialogue of weapons. We, the international community, must match our actions with our words and take immediate measures to end the violence that is destroying the lives of millions of people across the country. We must get the parties to stop the fighting and return to the negotiating table before it is too late. Otherwise, there will be nothing left to fight for.

As we reflect on the state of play globally on World Humanitarian Day, we unfortunately see a worsening situation and a scale of needless humanitarian suffering that is truly shocking. We must act. We must do more to ensure that those of us in a position to do so prevent the abuses perpetrated against those who can do nothing, and that those who continue to carry them out are held to account.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.